GERARD WAY OPENS HIS HEART

"I'M SO PROUD OF MIKEY BEATING ADDICTION"

TOM DELONGE

ABDUCTED BY ALIENS!

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ROCKSTAR MUMS!

DISH THE DIRT ON THEIR KIDS!

"SUICIDE IS THE WORST THING YOU CAN DO"

AUSTIN CARLILE'S LIFE-SAVING SONGS

6 WALL BUSTING POSTERS!

FALL OUT BOY

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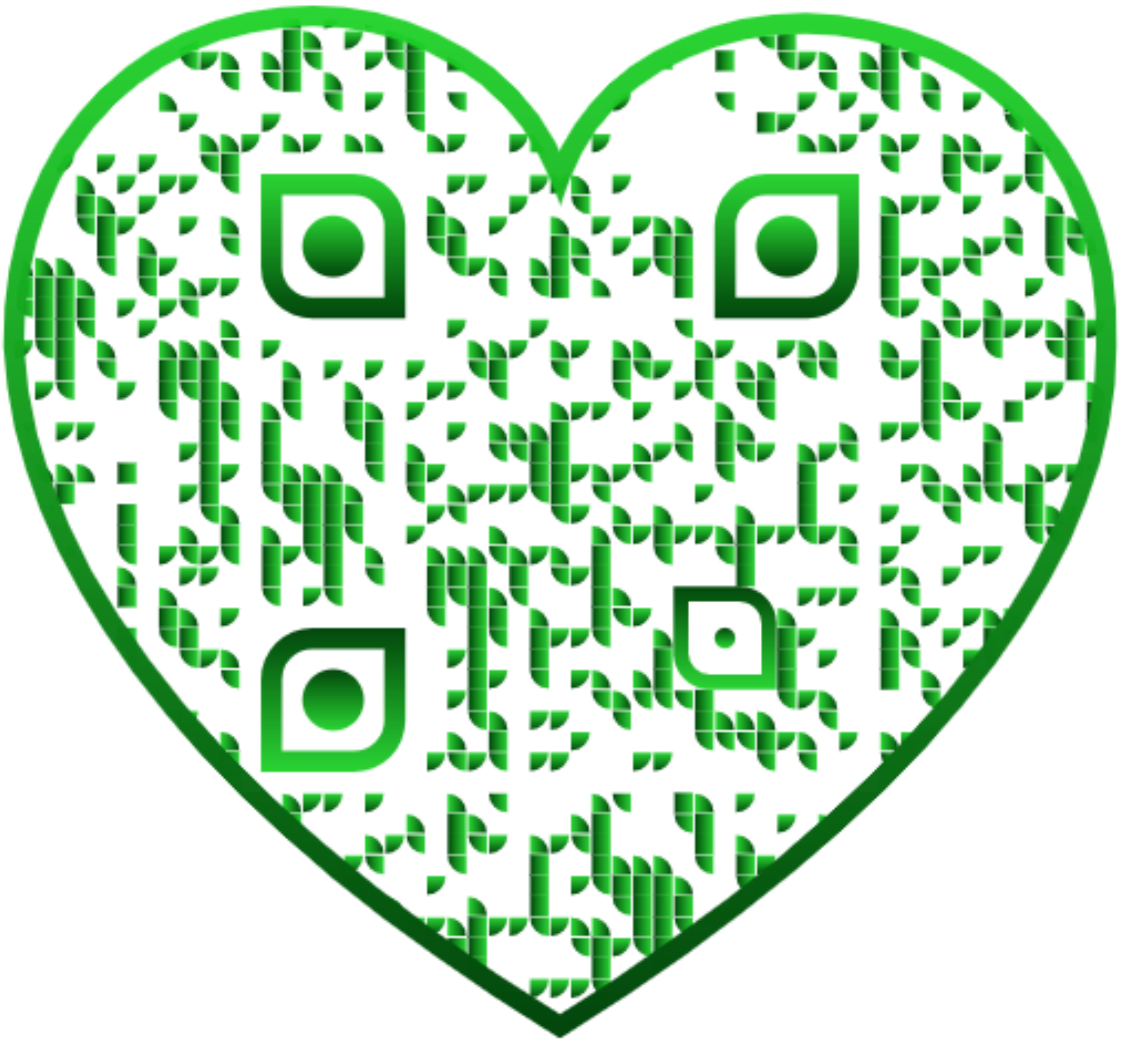

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CONTENTS

EVEN GERARD WASN'T IMMUNE TO THE UNIQUE PAIN OF TOE-STUBBING

IT'S ONLY 93 DAYS 'TIL DOWNLOAD!

HELLO, READERS. I'm excited! Not only have I become a fully qualified Viking – life *gooooooooooooooooal* achieved! – but Kerrang! are also welcoming Sleeping With Sirens back onto our cover this week. If you think you've got Kellin Quinn all pegged, you really haven't. That's what we discovered when we sent our man Nick Ruskell to Philadelphia to find out why they pissed away $60,000 on an album you'll never hear. Fortunately, the one they've released instead – Madness – is a blinder. And Nick brought chocolate back for the office, so everyone's a winner! Elsewhere in this week's issue you can be very jealous of Australia(ns) as you read our Soundwave review, featuring Slipknot, Fall Out Boy, All Time Low, Faith No More and pretty much every other band ever playing in the sunshine. Still, at least we've got the amazing new While She Sleeps album to keep us warm… Enjoy the issue, everyone!

James
Editor

NEWS

04 WHEN BANDS ATTACK!
06 SLAM DUNK
08 ROCK MUMS
10 FRESH BLOOD: LIGHT YOU UP

FEEDBACK

12 WIN! ENTER SHIKARI ROCK SOCKS!!

FEATURES

16 SLEEPING WITH SIRENS
Kellin Quinn's getting serious – and set to change everything you thought you knew about him…

22 WHEN STARS LEAVE BANDS
2015 has seen its fair share of band-member splits, but what is life like for those who leave the spotlight? Former GN'R, Nirvana and Weezer members spill the beans…

24 GERARD WAY
Weeks after being reunited onstage with his brother, Gerard tells of his pride at Mikey's recovery.

38 THE AMITY AFFLICTION
They've blazed their way through Aussie arenas, and now they're set to spread fire around the UK…

40 ROCK'S WEIRDEST COLLECTIBLES!
From a handbag kissed by Billie Joe to Layne Staley's TV guide, we present the most bizarre ways to get closer to the stars you love!

42 SONGS THAT SAVED MY LIFE…
Explore the songs that saved – and shamed – OM&M's Austin Carlile's life! Whitney Houston included…

45 FIGHTSTAR
The (extra-tall) anatomy of Charlie Simpson, dissected!

Grey skies posing a UV threat for GN'R

Loz' armpit was a top commuter repellent

SHOTS

29 ANDY BVB, FOB, ATL AND MORE!

LIVES

48 SOUNDWAVE SPECIAL!
Slipknot, Fall Out Boy, All Time Low, Faith No More and Slash played, and the sun was shining… Look, it's enough to make you choke on your English flu.

ALBUMS

52 WHILE SHE SLEEPS
Northern metallers kick off on their new album.

53 ALIEN ANT FARM
They're back! They're really back! Hold your loved ones close – THIS IS NOT A TEST!!!!

54 ENSLAVED
Norwegian Vikings are back with more crushing goodness. The black metal album of the year…?

55 MASTODON
The full secret story of Blood Mountain ("rented" oil drums and all…).

GIG GUIDE

56 PAPA ROACH / WEDNESDAY 13

THE ULTIMATE ROCKSTAR TEST

63 LED ZEPPELIN
JIMMY FUCKIN' PAGE FROM LED FUCKIN' ZEPPELIN!

THIS ISSUE WAS CREATED WITH HELP FROM…

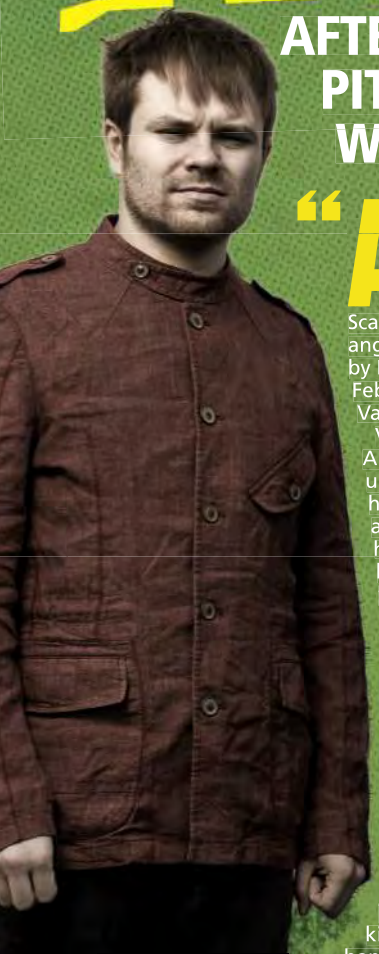
Lovely, delicious doughnuts. A phone call from Scott Weiland. Staying up for the really, really late last-minute Kanye West show and needing all the coffee. Getting our team turned into superheroes by David Wynne as prep for London Comic Con (it's on March 14 – 15, see you there, yeah!?). Watching the Vegas extravaganza that was the In This Moment gig. And a clown came into the office. A c-c-clown… ARGRHH!!!

COVER PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

BLACK VEIL BRAWLS!

WHEN BANDS ATTACK!

AFTER ANDY BIERSACK'S SCUFFLE IN THE PIT, K! INVESTIGATES WHAT HAPPENS WHEN FANS AND BANDS COLLIDE…



Grabbed by the ghoulies: Rou Reynolds

"Are you going to be real embarrassed when a motherfucker wearing mascara knocks your fucking fake ass out right now?"

No, it's not a line from the new Scarlett Johansson movie – just one of the angry quotes directed towards a heckler by Black Veil Brides' Andy Biersack at their February 25 gig at the Vogue Theatre in Vancouver, Canada.

Video footage posted online shows Andy going into an epic rant about the unidentified audience member, calling him a "drunk piece of shit" and threatening him with eviction, before getting into the crowd seemingly intent on dealing with him physically.

No-one in the BVB camp wanted to comment on the Vancouver incident – but Andy's certainly not alone in being sent over the edge by fans in recent months.

Lately, the likes of NOFX's Fat Mike, who punched and kicked a stage invader in Australia last year, and Every Time I Die's Jordan Buckley, who drop-kicked a phone out of a selfie-taking fan's hand at a 2014 show in Lawrence, Kansas, have also been involved in altercations with audience members. And when even normally-mild-mannered dudes like Rou Reynolds are losing it – having been filmed brawling with a fan in the pit at Enter Shikari's Portsmouth Pyramids Centre show on February 16 – it's surely time to investigate what happens when your favourite bands attack…

The above list of incidents might suggest this is a growing problem. But Simon Battersby – director of the UK's leading arena security firm Showsec – says confrontations between bands and fans are actually rare these days.

"If you relate it back to the early days of rock and metal," he says, "the anecdotal stories [show] that there was actually a lot more bad behaviour."

> **"I'M VERY UNHAPPY WITH HOW I ACTED!"**
> **Rou Reynolds**

Simon believes the fact that everyone at a gig now has a video camera in their phone means incidents that would otherwise have gone unnoticed are now going viral online. That's certainly how most people learned about Rou throwing punches at an audience member in Portsmouth. The incident was posted online, prompting a backlash and Rou to issue a statement explaining that fans in the pit had tried to pull his trousers down and "groped" his "undercarriage".

"I defy anyone to have their scrotum grabbed and not lash out instinctively," the frontman explained. "Obviously, violence

is never the answer and I'm very unhappy personally with how I acted. I should have left the crowd and headed back to stage immediately when this started happening, but due to the density of the crowd and the intensity of the situation, things played out differently. I'm only human."

Simon Battersby has sympathy with Rou's plight ("It's flight or fight, and he chose to lash out to get away from that scenario"), although he stresses that rockstars should definitely try and rise above provocation.

"If you go to football grounds, the abuse players get is completely unacceptable," he points out. "But there's an expectation that players take it on the chin and leave the management of the crowd to the people that are there to do it."

Simon insists security teams can usually defuse situations better than the people onstage, although security itself is also under increased scrutiny. Tonight Alive's Jenna McDougall was recently shown intervening as four security guards pinned down a fan at Australia's Soundwave Festival in Brisbane.

"I feel responsible for our fans," says Jenna, as to why she got involved. "In my mind, if the security guards are neither protecting the crowd nor 'the artist', then what is their motive? In that song, I had seen people football tackled, slammed to the ground and having their arms pulled back behind them like they were being arrested. It was really infuriating to watch."

Jenna stresses such incidents are rare – and Simon Battersby points out safe control and restraint techniques can often look worse than they actually are. Meanwhile, Dimebag Darrell's 2004 murder onstage in Columbus, Ohio, and the Randy Blythe incident – Lamb Of God's frontman was acquitted on manslaughter charges after a fan died having been pushed offstage at a 2010 gig in the Czech Republic – means everyone is more wary now when fans approach the stage.

But it's clear that, when it comes to ensuring safety at shows, everyone – bands, fans and security – has a role to play.

"People should be correctly trained and specifically briefed for the style of performance," says Jenna. "I have always appreciated when bands encourage their fans to 'pick each other up' and generally promote respect, too. Anyone that doesn't want to be a team player can fuck off."

WATCH THE VIDEOS AND HAVE YOUR SAY OVER ON KERRANG.COM

Calling out the haters: Andy Biersack

Andy being held back from fighting a member of the crowd

WHAT ARE YOU SO SCARED OF?

TONIGHT ALIVE'S JENNA MCDOUGALL TAKES ON SECURITY TO RESCUE A FAN...

Jenna jumps off the stage at Soundwave as four security guards restrain a fan...

...the frontwoman not-so-politely tells the guards to get off him...

...the fan escapes the scuffle unhurt, after high-fiving and hugging Jenna, of course!

WORDS: MARK SUTHERLAND PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

SLAM DUNK EXPLODES!

Sam dedicated These Colours Don't Run to his new red and white tee

KABOOM! ARCHITECTS, AS IT IS, SET IT OFF, WE ARE THE OCEAN AND MORE JOIN THE PARTY!

SO YOU thought this year's Slam Dunk couldn't get any better – well, guess what? Another bunch of killer bands have been added to the line-up! Let's cut to the chase. This year, in addition to the likes of You Me At Six, Taking Back Sunday, Don Broco, PVRIS and tons more, you've also now got Architects, Finch, We Are The Ocean, Set It Off, Baby Godzilla, ROAM, Cartel, As It Is, Moose Blood, Stick To Your Guns, Deez Nuts, Dead Harts, SHVPES, Rob Lynch, This Wild Life, Being As An Ocean, Aaron West & The Roaring Twenties, Wind In Sails, Only Rivals, Fort Hope, Seaway and Survay Says!.

Architects' announcement comes off the back of their first-ever K! cover last week, too, so it's fair to say they're loving life right now. Vocalist Sam Carter explains…

HI, SAM! YOU LAST PLAYED SLAM DUNK BACK IN 2012 – ARE YOU EXCITED TO BE COMING BACK AGAIN?

"Yeah, it was amazing last time we did it. We headlined one of the rooms, which was pretty crazy at that point in our career, and we got to hang out with Every Time I Die, and we're great friends with them now. It was a special show for us, too, because afterwards it made us stop and go, 'Actually, we're doing pretty good!' We can't wait for Slam Dunk this year, though!"

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM ARCHITECTS WHEN YOU TAKE THE STAGE IN MAY, THEN?

"Well, we're gonna actually make an effort for once (*laughs*)! No, we're going to try to make it something special. Instead of just a regular festival slot, we're going to bring some production and play some songs we haven't played in a while. We want to make it an event. These might be the last UK shows we play for a while. We're planning on going out with a proper bang!"

AND WHO ARE YOU MOST EXCITED TO SEE?

"I'm massively looking forward to Bane, we're friends with them and they're a great, great hardcore band and have such a huge legacy. It will be really cool to see You Me At Six, because they're great friends of ours, and Taking Back Sunday are still putting out great records. There have also been some amazing bands announced alongside us, too – Deez Nuts are our boys, we love them, and I'm sure there'll be a more than a few drinks sunk with them! And Stick To Your Guns are my favourite band, hands down. We're friends with them… Jesse [Barnett], their singer, and I text each other all the time, like we're in love with each other!"

IF THE GODS OF SCHEDULING PUT ARCHITECTS AND STICK TO YOUR GUNS PLAYING AGAINST EACH OTHER, WILL FANS WONDER WHERE YOU'VE GONE?!

"There's a danger (*laughs*)! We did Warped Tour with them, and every day there was at least one member of Architects watching them – it had to be done! I'll be doing everything in my power to get up and do at least one song with them, too!"

SEE THE GIG GUIDE FOR FULL LINE-UP, DATES AND MORE INFO

Slam Dunk SURVIVAL GUIDE!

SAM CARTER GIVES US HIS TOP FIVE TIPS FOR SURVIVING THE FIRST FESTIVAL OF THE SUMMER…

1 PLAN AHEAD TO CATCH THE BANDS YOU LOVE

"If you don't plan ahead, you'll get confused – there are a lot of stages and lots of bands. The day goes really quick and before you know it you're at the front row for Architects, and there's a lot of bands before that!"

2 FIND NEW BANDS TO FALL IN LOVE WITH

"If you have time, watch whoever is on before the band you're waiting for. Chances are they won't be a million miles from who you're actually waiting to see, and they might just be your new favourite band."

3 DON'T (TAKE THE) PISS IN THE PIT

"Know where the toilets are if you're going to be drinking as much fluid as you should be. If you can't get to one, just do it discreetly, don't be the idiot thrown out of the festival for having a piss in the mosh-pit!"

4 DON'T BE A DICK, TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER

"Watch out for each other when you're moshing, and don't tolerate fucking bullies. I hate seeing people walking around acting like they're in control of the pit, and if I see you doing that, I'll call you out and kick you out."

5 STAY HYDRATED AND LUBRICATED

"If I'm drinking, I always try and follow a pattern of two beers then water, two beers then water. Try and stay hydrated – it's a really long day and you don't want to be completely shot by the end of it and miss stuff. Really, though, you should leave it to the bands to be the stupid pissheads!"

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR PHOTO: CHRIS CASEY

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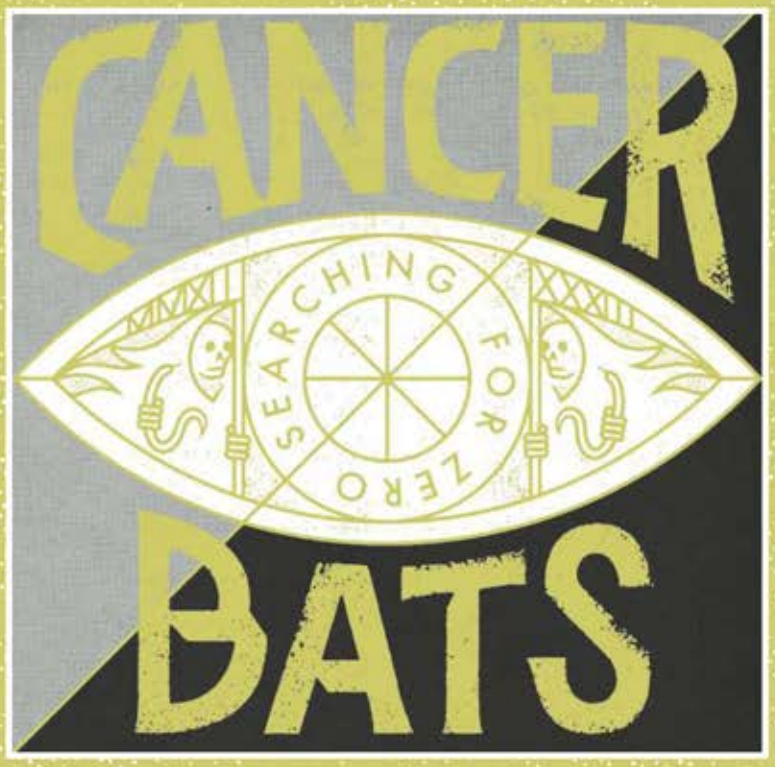

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SIGNIFICANT MOTHER!

MOTHER'S DAY'S INCOMING, SO WE SPOKE TO TAY JARDINE, LZZY HALE AND MURRAY MACLEOD'S ROCKING MUMS!

BREAKING NEWS! Rockstars have mums, too! Yep, it may be hard to believe, but everyone from Gerard Way to Marilyn Manson was – at one point or another – a tiny human baby. Consider this a timely reminder, then: it's Mother's Day on Sunday (March 15) – and if you forget, then you are the worst. Anyway, to celebrate how awesome they truly are, we spoke to the mums (or should that be 'moms'?) of We Are The In Crowd's Tay Jardine, Halestorm's Lzzy and Arejay Hale and The Xcerts' Murray Macleod…

"TAY'S VIOLIN PLAYING WAS HORRENDOUS!"
TAY'S MUM

NAME: ROBYN MOTHER OF: TAY JARDINE, WE ARE THE IN CROWD

TAY'S MUM AND HER ARE AS TIGHT AS CAN BE, BUT ROBYN HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN A FAN OF TAY'S MUSIC…

HI, ROBYN! DID TAY SHOW MUSICAL INCLINATIONS WHEN SHE WAS A LITTLE KID, THEN?
"Yes! Their father played in the home a lot, he would be playing his guitar and singing and she couldn't help but take to it."

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY FUN TO BE AROUND…
"Oh, it was! It meant the kids were happy! If they were happy then it meant that they weren't cranky (*laughs*)!"

AND DID SHE SHOW ANY PROPER ROCKSTAR TENDENCIES?
"I can't say that I recall that, but she started violin lessons when she was very young, about five or six, and she just really, really loved to play."

DID YOU ENJOY HER PRACTISING?
"I have to say it was very rough in the beginning – if you've ever been around someone first learning to play violin it's pretty horrendous, but she caught on pretty quickly, thank goodness. It was fun. Everybody in the house played something!"

WAS THE FIRST TIME YOU SAW HER PERFORM PUBLICLY AT A VIOLIN RECITAL OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
"Yeah, it was! And she just loved it, you could clearly just see something turn on – she really loved to perform."

PRESUMABLY YOU FELT A LOT OF PRIDE WATCHING THAT?
"Oh, of course. I bawled my eyes out (*laughs*)!"

SO, YOU MUST HAVE SEEN WE ARE THE IN CROWD AT ONE OF THEIR REALLY EARLY SHOWS?
"Oh yes! I followed all the bands that Taylor was in, even through high school she was in a band or two. They were always changing their line-ups and everything, but I went to every show I could possibly go to and rooted her on."

HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW, SEEING HER IN MAGAZINES, THEN?
"It's a thrill, it's an absolute thrill. I have every Kerrang! she's ever been in! I'm so very, very proud of her. These kids work really hard and it's not easy what they do – people don't realise that a lot of the time! I cry a lot (*laughs*)! I do, I cry at everything!"

NAME: BETH MOTHER OF: LZZY AND AREJAY HALE, HALESTORM

IF HAVING A ROCKSTAR KID IS COOL, BETH MUST BE DOUBLE COOL…

HI BETH! YOU HAVE TWO ROCKSTARS IN THE FAMILY! WERE LZZY AND HER BROTHER AREJAY ROCKSTARS FROM BIRTH, THEN?
"It's funny, when I was still carrying Arejay I remember one time saying, 'I've got a drummer in here!' (*laughs*). When they each turned five, we got them piano lessons – that's when Lzzy really got interested in music, then she got one of those keytars!"

DID THEY SHOW ANY OTHER ROCKSTAR TENDENCIES, LIKE DRESSING UP?
"Yeah, they performed all the time. If we had family over, they always wanted to show us their new songs!"

WHAT WAS IT LIKE SEEING THEM PLAY?
"They were 10 and 13 years old when they played in a talent show. If you could watch a video, you would hear me cheering on!"

NAME: LINDSEY MOTHER OF: MURRAY MACLEOD, THE XCERTS

MURRAY WROTE AN ALBUM ABOUT A GIRL WHO LEFT HIM – SO, HERE'S A LADY WHO COULDN'T IF SHE TRIED!

HI, LINDSEY! WAS MURRAY A MUSICAL KID?
"Yeah, from a young age he used to sit on the kitchen floor drumming on the pans (*laughs*)!"

WHAT WAS IT LIKE WHEN HE PRACTISED?
"The drumming was nasty – a neighbour complained (*laughs*)! It was better when he got onto guitar because we could turn it down!"

WHEN DID YOU FIRST SEE THE XCERTS?
"Aberdeen! They got a gig when they were 15ish, it was really dingy – he was good, though!"

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR PHOTO: IAN COLLINS

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FRESH BLOOD

ROCK'S BREAKING BANDS BY JENNYFER J. WALKER

Light You Up (*from left*): Tom Hill (*bass*), Rob Taylor (*guitar*), Tom Napier (*vocals*), Drew Masters (*guitar*), Joe Garey (*drums*)

LIGHT YOU UP

WHOLESOME BRUMMIE POP-ROCK THAT WILL SET YOU UP FOR THE DAY...

WHO ARE THESE CEREAL THRILLERS, THEN?

They're Birmingham-based punky pop-rockers Light You Up, starting the day the right way: by delivering your recommended daily allowance of PMA. "I'm all about the positive mental attitude," enthuses singer Tom Napier. "We make the best out of any situation."

SO, DO THEY ONLY SING HAPPY SONGS?

No, as it happens. Debut album All We've Ever Known snaps, crackles and, uh, rocks with upbeat blink-meets-Oasis anthems, but Tom's lyrics have a more emo edge. "I'm in a more mentally secure place now," says Tom, "but I suffered badly with anxiety in my late teens. It was like I was renting a room in my own head: I was spending too much time there, rather than in the real world." Hence emotional songs such as Monsters and Good Days. Meanwhile, Foxfire – which you can download free from Kerrang.com – is a "big friendship anthem". "It might seem like there's no light at the end of the tunnel," says Tom, "but we've got each other's backs."

"YOU ONLY GET ONE SHOT! WE'RE GONNA DO THIS!"

AND THEY'VE GOT FRIENDS IN HIGHER PLACES, TOO, RIGHT?

Right. The band – bassist Tom Hill, guitarists Drew Masters and Rob Taylor, and drummer Joe Garey – recruited Surrey-based Tom in 2012 when they saw his cover of Mallory Knox's Oceans on YouTube. But the others have also had jobs in the music biz for a while now and have lots of mates. Matty Arsenault from cult U.S. pop-punkers A Loss For Words sings on Foxfire and they're also pals with Four Year Strong – who LYU tour the UK with this month – so FYS' Alan Day features on the album's Always Wanting More. And they've got dates with PVRIS coming up! But most of all, they want to be mates with… you. "If you like our band, you're a friend,not a fan," says Tom. "None of us want to be put on pedestals."

BET THEY WON'T BE SAYING THAT ONCE THEY'RE MEGASTARS...

"Ideally, we'd be one of the biggest bands ever," admits Tom. But whatever happens with LYU, he says he'll carry on his favourite hobby of busking. He often plays LYU tunes and covers of Justin Timberlake around Surrey, and his experiences even inspired the album's title track, after an old classmate saw him on the street and sneered at his chosen career. "That song is a defiant 'fuck you' to anyone who might be looking down on us," fumes Tom. "You only get one shot, and we're going to do this!" And that's Light You Up: the most important meal of your day…

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

FOR FANS OF: You Me At Six, Deaf Havana, Jimmy Eat World.
HEAR: Foxfire, which you can download free at Kerrang.com.
CHECK OUT: The BMX-tastic video for new single It's About Time, on YouTube now.
MORE INFO: facebook.com/lightyouupofficial
DON'T MISS: Light You Up and more killer new bands on Alex Baker's Fresh Blood show on Wednesdays at 10pm on K! Radio, and Kerrang! TV's #freshbloodfridays on Sky 368, Virgin 342 and Freesat 524.

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WORDS: MARK SUTHERLAND PHOTO: IAN COLLINS

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CHESTER LIVE ROOMS

Sunday 31 May
CARLISLE BRICKYARD

Monday 01 June
PETERBOROUGH CRESSET

Wed 03 June
WOLVERHAMPTON WULFRUN HALL

Thursday 04 June
CARDIFF Y PLAS

Friday 05 June
MANCHESTER ACADEMY 2

Saturday 06 June
NORWICH WATERFRONT

Monday 08 June
LONDON SCALA

Tuesday 09 June
GLASGOW THE GARAGE

Wednesday 10 June
SHEFFIELD PLUG

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YAYSAYER!

STAR LETTER

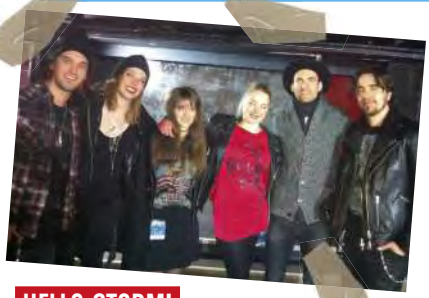
DEAR KERRANG!, that Architects EP you gave away with last week's issue was absolutely quality! I've been hungry for new tunes from them since I first heard Lost Forever // Lost Together and that was the perfect top-me-up before I see 'em on the tour. Can I also just say it's about bloody time they were on the cover. They're the best band in Britain, hands down! Anyway, more free music with the mag, please… if you can rustle up some Metallica or Green Day, that would be much appreciated. Thanks!

SARAH, VIA EMAIL

Glad you liked the Architects EP, Sarah! We've had it on repeat in the office and we're ready to go bananas in the pit when we see 'em – turn to p6 for some more good news about 'em! As for new material from Metallica and Green Day, it's a big ask but we'll give James and Billie Joe a bell… and a tweet. And a Snapchat. And an Instagram. And a carrier pigeon. And…

tweets of

@swearboxdj
Davyd Winter-Bates, Bury Tomorrow
"I stole cake. I'm not proud of myself, but I couldn't help it. It was just staring at me. Sorry to the owner of the cake. CAKE."

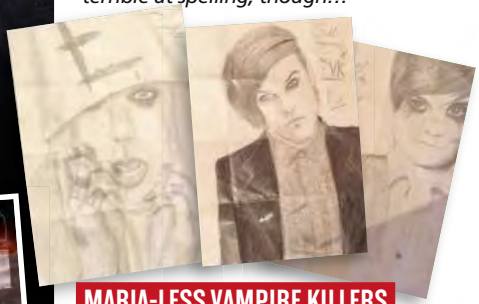


HELLO-STORM!

HEY K!, my best friend, Lib, and I met Halestorm at Rock City in Nottingham. They are the nicest people you could ever hope to meet and the gig was absolutely incredible!

CHARLOTTE, NOTTINGHAM

Nice one, Charlotte! Lzzy and co are indeed really lovely. Shame she's so terrible at spelling, though…



MARIA-LESS VAMPIRE KILLERS

HELLO K!, these are my drawings of Maria Brink from In This Moment and Kier and Laurence from Fearless Vampire Killers!

SCOTT , VIA EMAIL

Scott! Both those bands are on tour together – what a coincidence!

PANDORA by Ray Zell

Rayzell.com

the week

Because rockstars are obsessed with Twitter, too...

@markhoppus
Mark Hoppus, blink-182
"Stop paying for dating services! For free, I will hook you up with one of my batshit crazy friends who'll make you lose all hope!"

@jonoBLITZ
Jono Yates, Blitz Kids
"I just got home and got into bed and nobody is making me food or buying me alcohol and basically I'm furious."

DEAR GAYNOR, COUNT ME IN

HEY KERRANG!, I managed to meet all of the All Time Low guys in Manchester the other week! They are all so lovely... #Hustlers

GAYNOR, VIA EMAIL

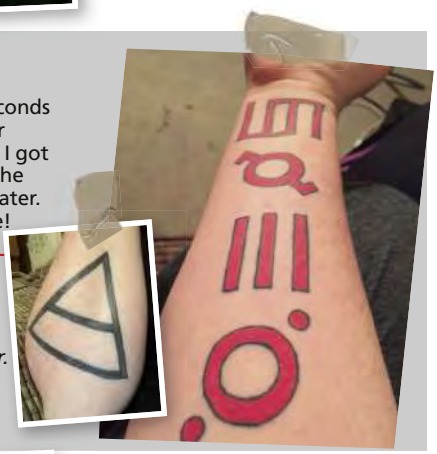
You lucky bugger, Gaynor! Look how happy they were to meet you, too, well chuffed! Quick question, though – did you put that dead skunk on Jack's head? Maybe it was one of the other guys in the band. They're always pulling pranks that lot... #Skunks

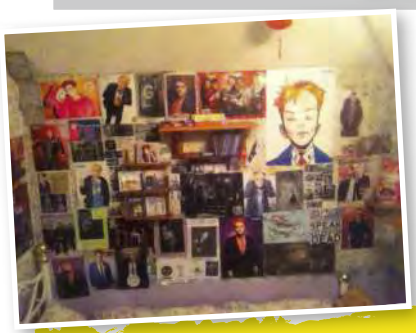
30 SECONDS TO ARMS

HELLO K!, here are my 30 Seconds To Mars tattoos. My first-ever tattoo was the red symbols – I got them on my 18th birthday! The triad I got a couple of years later. They all mean so much to me!

LIZZY, VIA EMAIL

Oof! Lizzy, that's some dedication right there! We just got a tattoo of Jared Leto with his lovely, long hair. What's that? He's cut it off? Er, these tattoo things just wash right off, yeah?





HANG 'EM HIGH

HEY KERRANG!, oh how much I love your posters! I can't even explain, so just look at how many I have! I really love Gerard Way, as you can tell...

PAIGE, VIA EMAIL

Paige – that's pretty cool. Now you've completed it, why not move house and start again?

WIN! ENTER SHIKARI SOCKS AND A RUCKSACK OF MERCH!

Love repping your favourite bands from head to toe? Well, now you can do that, quite literally, by bagging yourself these mental Enter Shikari socks... oh, and a rucksack full of the band's finest merch! Plus, they're also chucking in a signed copy of their latest album, The Mindsweep, and more goodies. To get your hands (and feet) on all this gear, head to Winit.kerrang.com now!

THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST SONGS IN ROCK THIS WEEK? LET'S CONSULT THE OFFICIAL CHART...

	WEEKS ON CHART	HIGHEST POSITION	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
1	3	1	ALL TIME LOW	Something's Gotta Give	HOPELESS
2	2	2	OF MICE & MEN	Broken Generation	RISE RECORDS
3	7	1	ENTER SHIKARI	Anaesthetist	ENTER SHIKARI
4	4	3	LONELY THE BRAVE	Trick Of The Light	HASSLE
5	6	4	MARILYN MANSON	Deep Six	COOKING VINYL
6	1	6	FALL OUT BOY	Irresistible	ISLAND
7	3	7	WE ARE HARLOT	Dancing On Nails	ROADRUNNER
8	2	8	HALESTORM	Apocalyptic	ATLANTIC
9	10	2	FALL OUT BOY	American Beauty/American Psycho	ISLAND
10	10	5	PAPA ROACH	Face Everything And Rise	ELEVEN SEVEN
11	5	10	KID ROCK	First Kiss	WARNER
12	6	3	TWIN ATLANTIC	Oceans	RED BULL
13	16	1	BRING ME THE HORIZON	Drown	SONY
14	7	1	LOWER THAN ATLANTIS	Criminal	SONY
15	5	15	AS IT IS	Dial Tones	FEARLESS
16	4	11	FORT HOPE	Plans	LAB
17	11	1	MALLORY KNOX	When Are We Waking Up?	SEARCH AND DESTROY
18	18	1	ROYAL BLOOD	Ten Tonne Skeleton	WARNER
19	10	3	ENTER SHIKARI	The Last Garrison	ENTER SHIKARI
20	1	20	STORM THE SKY	Same Graves	UNFD

SEE/HEAR THE OFFICIAL KERRANG! ROCK CHART!

The Official Kerrang! Rock Chart is made up of airplay across Kerrang! Radio, Kerrang! TV and specialist rock stations. The show airs on K! Radio every Saturday at 12:30pm with Dan Hudson, and also on K! TV Thursdays at 5pm and Saturdays at 6pm. Tune in and listen up!

KERRANG! TV

KERRANG! RADIO

TEE minus 2 WEEKS!

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HOW YOU CAN GET YOURS FREE!

1 KERRANG! WILL PRINT A TOKEN IN THE NEXT TWO ISSUES

2 COLLECT 10 TOKENS AND CHOOSE YOUR FAVOURITE EXCLUSIVE BAND T-SHIRT – YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GET IT ANYWHERE ELSE!

3 EVERY WEEK, STICK YOUR TOKEN ON THE GRID OPPOSITE. ONCE YOU'VE COLLECTED ENOUGH FOR A T-SHIRT, SEND THE GRID TO US ALONG WITH THE FORM. YOU DON'T EVEN NEED A STAMP!

4 WE MUST RECEIVE ALL GRIDS/FORMS BY APRIL 8, 2015. ALL T-SHIRTS WILL BE POSTED OUT IN MAY

5 ANY QUESTIONS? EMAIL US AT TSHIRTS@KERRANG.COM

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 GET YOUR EXCLUSIVE T-SHIRT!

CUT OUT AND POST THIS!

TO CLAIM YOUR EXCLUSIVE T-SHIRT, FILL IN YOUR DETAILS AND SEND TO: KERRANG! FREEPOST RSKX-CGJL-SJUL, BEECH ROAD, HIGH WYCOMBE, HP11 1RY BY APRIL 8, 2015

❑ I AM 16 YEARS OR OVER

❑ I AM UNDER 16 AND HAVE PARENTAL CONSENT TO COLLECT TOKENS FOR A FREE T-SHIRT

I'VE COLLECTED 10 K! TOKENS AND I WANT A T-SHIRT DESIGNED BY:
- ❑ All Time Low
- ❑ A Day To Remember
- ❑ Sleeping With Sirens
- ❑ Enter Shikari

IN THE FOLLOWING SIZE:
- ❑ Small
- ❑ Medium
- ❑ Large
- ❑ X-large

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ POSTCODE _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE NUMBER _____ DOB _____

❑ MALE ❑ FEMALE

❑ I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM KERRANG! BY SMS AND EMAIL

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"Hey, who pinched my hoverboard?": (*From left*) Jack Fowler (guitar), Gabe Barham (drums), Kellin Quinn (vocals), Justin Hill (bass), Nick Martin (guitar)

SUIT TO

THRILL!

PLAYTIME IS OVER. SLEEPING WITH SIRENS ARE BACK, AND THIS TIME, THEY'RE GETTING SERIOUS. KELLIN QUINN TELLS NICK RUSKELL HOW THEY'RE SET TO BE THE CHAIRMEN OF 2015'S BOARD...

PHOTOS: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

Sleeping With Sirens mean business. Check out the suits. See those ties? All deftly knotted themselves. They even manage not to get beer and pizza on those pristine white shirts. But they haven't come here with whiteboards, spreadsheets and the projected figures for the next fiscal quarter to present to the board of directors. Mere child's play. They're giving the world Madness: their fourth album, the record that pitches itself to you by considering everything you expected from them, writing it down, then tearing it up and flushing it down the toilet.

It's faster. It's got more of a punch. It's – no, honestly – a bit heavier. Kellin Quinn hasn't swapped his cartoonish yelp for the baritone grunt of Cannibal Corpse crooner George "Corpsegrinder" Fisher, but the truth is still writ large: forget what you thought you knew about Sleeping With Sirens, because this is business as unusual.

But SWS didn't just wake up one morning and decide to take things more seriously. Madness may be leagues ahead of 2013's breakthrough album, Feel, but it took a hell of a lot of steps to get there. Because Sleeping With Sirens haven't been restructuring their business just going to a studio and making Madness. To paraphrase Yoda from Star Wars, *there was another.*

We have no idea what this mysterious album – referred to by the band as The Nashville Album – sounds like. But Sleeping With Sirens do. They spent three months writing, recording, mixing and mastering it. And when they heard the finished version, they all heard and felt the same things coming out of their speakers. And the declaration was unanimous: I'm out.

And so, Sleeping With Sirens became their own bosses. The Nashville Album was given its redundancy papers. Madness was recorded. And today, they want us to be under no illusion that thrilling is their business, and business is good.

> **"IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU'RE DOING, NO-ONE ELSE WILL"**
> **KELLIN QUINN**

It was Kellin who said no to The Nashville Album first. By his own admission, the frontman has "a habit of speaking up if I don't like something". So, when listening back to the record he and his band – bassist Justin Hills, drummer Gabe Barham, and guitarists Jack Fowler and Nick Martin – had made and realising he didn't dig what they'd done, nobody was surprised when the singer voiced his opinion.

"I'm always first," he laughs. "Everyone else will kinda talk about it quietly, but they never make a decision. They kinda rely on me to do that, so I did."

This wasn't, though, the rest of Sleeping With Sirens dancing to Kellin's drum. Everyone felt something wasn't right. That they couldn't just do better, but that they should have been doing something *different.*

Kellin says the record "just didn't feel right". Jack says that "it felt 80 per cent done, but we didn't know where the other 20 per cent could come from". And Nick – though not long in the SWS trenches, having

joined the band from D.R.U.G.S. in October 2013 – says, "You could tell we weren't all loving it." But it was Kellin who picked up the phone and said something.

"We all got the, 'Dude, are you thinking what I'm thinking about the record?' phone call," remembers Jack with a chuckle. "And I'm like, 'Alright, well he said it! Let's do another one!'"

The call was a while coming. Things in Nashville weren't quite right from the get-go. It itched Kellin from an early point.

"The whole recording experience was pretty strange," recalls Kellin. "It was kinda weird. I feel like, as an artist and as a band, you only get one chance to put out what you actually want to put out."

Now 28, Kellin appeared to have an epiphany. Not getting any younger, and with the changes in life that being a father to his two-year-old daughter, Copeland, brings a man, he began to really question what he and the band were doing. What are we doing? Why are we doing this? Why *aren't* we doing that? And he realised what he needed to do.

"I started thinking about past records and what we've put out before and when we've had to settle for songs, and I just thought, 'I don't wanna do that any more,'" he explains.

SLEEPING WITH PIE-RENS!

WE CRUNCHED THE NUMBERS TO SEE WHAT YOU NEED TO MAKE A SWS…

23% BEING AN ARTIST "It's important for me to do something that's satisfying artistically," says Kellin. "Art and creativity is what's important."

18% SQUEAKY VOICES We asked a boffin at the Science Museum (well, a bloke with glasses and a tie), and he confirmed Kellin has a mad voice. Only the third highest in rock, though, after The Darkness' Justin Hawkins and Danish gumby King Diamond.

8% PINK FROGS Yes. Pink frogs. Word is that John Feldmann has a percussion instrument shaped like a pink frog that he uses on everything. Sadly, this hasn't resulted in a cover of Paul McCartney's The Frog Chorus…

19% FRIENDSHIP The brodown of the men in SWS is their raison d'être. "We're best friends, and that's what's important – that we're friends doing this together." They also all sport SWS tattoos behind their left ear.

13% SURPRISE Kellin is the first to admit that he can get bored onstage. Cue him bursting into an impromptu a capella rendition of U2's Sunday Bloody Sunday. You know, the one about a massacre during the Irish Troubles…

10% DEMO-ITIS An affliction specific to Kellin in the studio with John Feldmann (who named the disease). While the rest of the band were allowed to hear rough mixes, John would tell Kellin to go away, on account of him being too critical of the unfinished thing.

9% FAMILY "I'm a father, so I have responsibilities outside the band," Kellin says. "It makes you realise what's important in life and what's not."

The trials for a new line of magnetic tie were an unequivocal failure

"I thought the songs that we were creating in Nashville weren't right for our band at this point. They were great songs, but they just weren't right for *right now*, you know what I mean? I think you have to evolve, of course, but I think if you evolve too much, people will start to not like it or understand it."

More important than what other people want, though – and Kellin freely admits, "I don't know what a SWS fan wants, or any of the fans in general" – for Kellin he had to start thinking about what he and his friends wanted.

"If you don't believe in what you're writing, then no-one else is gonna believe in it," explains Kellin. "It felt forced. The songs were good, but did we believe in them? No. Were they right for this record? Not at all."

And so Kellin called his bandmates. And they all agreed: The Nashville Album wasn't right. It was headed for the bin. But surely there was someone, somewhere, with a red-hot studio bill for a scrapped album in one hand, and clumps of their own hair in the other, yelling about pissing thousands of pounds up the wall, Kellin?

"Yeah, they fuckin' said that. That's their job, I guess," he snorts. "We just said, 'Well, it's our money. Of course it's a lot of money and I don't wanna just throw it away, but, at the same time, what's worse: putting out a record that you're putting out because you didn't want to waste money, or not putting out the *right* record?'"

The figure Kellin estimates for Sleeping With Sirens to be stood back at square one without a record to put out is $60,000. They could have literally bought a small house in a Nashville suburb and had change left over for that much. But simple numbers didn't bother Kellin one bit.

"Sixty-k? You can make that shit back – and we will," he reasons. "But putting out a record that isn't right could set your band back. You have to stay very relevant in this time of music, otherwise you fade away into the darkness."

Not only that, Kellin and the rest of the band reckon that had they gone with The Nashville Album, their already dented enthusiasm would have eventually become weakened beyond belief, touring a record they didn't believe in, being reminded nightly that they'd settled when they should have rattled the cage. And Sleeping With Sirens were fucked if they were going to let that happen to them. And to make sure of it, they decided to do something different, and embrace the madness.

Two thousand miles west of Nashville, in California, Madness was started. With no real break between the two sessions, there was just one question looming: how the fuck were Sleeping With Sirens going to write *another* record?

"I felt, after we did all the Nashville stuff, we'd been there forever, we had so many months before that, that it was like, 'Dude, do we have it in us to go and write another fucking record?'" laughs Nick. "We weren't going to wait months to do it; if we were going to do it, we were going to do it now. So it was like, 'Alright, let's go back next week and do it.'"

And do it they did. Sleeping With Sirens headed to California, and things could not have been more different. Where Nashville had seen days regulated by familiar working patterns, in California, working with notoriously off-the-wall producer John Feldmann (All Time Low, Black Veil Brides, We Are The In Crowd, The Used), nobody knew what the hell would happen from one day to the next. Some days, John would have the band working like shire horses during a petrol shortage; on others, instead of work, everyone would unexpectedly get taken to the beach or the zoo. Where the days in Nashville had felt "forced", with the added stress of six people sharing a three-bedroom apartment, here Sleeping With Sirens found, to their surprise, the new album was tumbling out of them.

"The first day we went into the studio, we didn't have any material – we'd exhausted all of our creativeness," says Nick. "We go in there, first day, and within 10 minutes of being there, John's playing the guitar and he sees Jack and he goes, 'Right right go right,' and within 15, 20 minutes we got it out – a song. It was crazy."

For Kellin, the chance to flex more creative muscle in the studio, knowing what he *didn't* want to do, was a godsend. Especially working with someone who understood him.

"I like playing live but I like creating songs more," says Kellin. "I think, more than anything, Feldmann has energy, and after two or three songs I felt relieved that there was finally someone that *gets* it."

What John Feldmann got about Kellin Quinn was that he wanted to be more than a pretty boy in an easily digestible band. He wanted to prove himself as an artist. He isn't a man who wants to make things easy, if it means settling for less. In fact, Kellin himself even goes so far as to reckon that the whole debacle was actually necessary to fire his band up.

"I don't think we'd have been able to make Madness without making The Nashville Record in the first place," he ponders. "I think making the record that we made before Madness really helped us think like, 'What are we doing?' And it put me in a spot where I was like, 'I'm getting older – am I making music [that sounds a certain way] 'cause I'm afraid of what our fans are gonna think?'"

He stops for a moment, then continues along a road you may not have expected from him.

"I hope the people that listen to our band and appreciate our music like [Madness]. But do I make records just for those kids? No. That's a stupid reason to be in a band. That's the reason pop artists are pop artists. The reason that we're in a band and we're in the scene of music we're in is because we wanna write our own shit. We do whatever the fuck we wanna do, and I think so many bands lose sight of that nowadays within our scene and the world in general.

"Dave Grohl said that shows like The Voice are ruining things," he continues. "I respect all the people on there because they have great talent, but the music industry has become this reality TV show, or a game show where everyone just does what everybody else does. That's not what music is supposed to be. That's not what Bob Dylan was, that's not who The Beatles were, that's not what The Rolling Stones were. It's not who all those artists were that actually had a message and tried to say what they wanted to say."

And what do you want to say with a song like Kick Me?

"That I felt alienated," he replies. "I wrote it 'cause I felt like I was being kicked while I was down. I write songs from a very internal place. I don't look out for other people to help me write lyrics and stuff, you know? But I do also want people to take away something from a song, whatever that thing is. Whenever I write things, I leave them very open-ended. I don't want it to be just about a boy or just about a girl, I want it to relate to both kinds of people. I think that's an important thing to do and that's why I leave my shit so open-ended. So

"WE DO WHATEVER THE FUCK WE WANNA DO"

KELLIN QUINN

"Coming next on BBC One, The Apprentice: The Final"

people can go, 'That's what the song's about.' And that's not wrong, even though that might not have been why I wrote the song."

This is just one of the surprising things about the Kellin Quinn of 2015. He talks about his music with a passion and enthusiasm often missing from young, photogenic, ear-friendly bands. He complains that people are more interested in staring at their phones at gigs than watching something that's happening right in front of them. He seems genuinely nonchalant about scrapping an album that was in a finished and fit state to be sent off to the pressing plant. And he seems genuinely irritated by bands who won't take a risk, or who do things for approval. "That's not rock'n'roll," is how he sums up his frustration. But perhaps the most surprising thing about Kellin Quinn is quite how reluctant he is about stardom. This, remember, is a man who made The Most Self-Regarding Video Of All Time in Congratulations; who, in the ever-controversial topic of paid-for meet-and-greets, still pockets a cheque in exchange for his time; and who fits the mould of Pretty Young Rockstar very well.

"It makes me feel very blessed and honoured that someone cares, and that we can help them get through their day, you know?" he says. "That's the important stuff. All the pictures and the magazine covers and the T-shirts, I couldn't give two shits about that stuff. In fact, I hate that shit. I don't like taking pictures. I hate it."

Really?

"Yeah, I hate it," he laughs. "I've always hated it, ever since I was a kid. I don't like my smile or my teeth. I can't force a smile on my face. Fans will say, 'Can you smile with your teeth for this picture?' and I can't do it 'cause I just don't know how! There's pictures of me as a kid trying to smile with my teeth and I just look like I'm in pain (*laughs*)!"

And there's another thing…

"I guess I feel like, for some people, it's more important to get a picture with a band than actually enjoy the music, so they can just show everybody, you know?"

What gives you that impression?

"Everybody's on their phones all the time. I feel like I'm singing to phones the whole time."

Perhaps even more surprising is what Kellin wants for his band. And for himself.

"FOR SOME PEOPLE, IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO GET A PICTURE WITH A BAND THAN ENJOY THE MUSIC"

KELLIN QUINN

Still, if this doesn't work out, at least you're set for a career as door-to-door salesmen, eh, guys?

"I would never want to be in a band like 5 Seconds Of Summer or One Direction, or be Justin Bieber, these big popstars," he frowns. "A lot of people think that's our goal, but it's not. I just want to play music. And I try to make it as unique for myself as possible, so if I don't do that I'll get really bored onstage. I'm not the type of person to get up onstage every night and do the same shit and say the same shit. It has to be new for the listeners, but also for me. And if that means we play clubs for the rest of our career, that's a fucking awesome career for us to have."

Come on, you'd love it…

"I don't wanna get off a plane and get mobbed by a million fucking people. I just wanna get off my plane and get my bag and go to dinner with my family and not feel like I'm getting surrounded by everyone. I'm just a normal guy. I just play music. That's just what I do."

This is all very surprising, how private you are.

"Yeah, I mean, I have a family at home, and I'm a dad now," he smiles. "I used to be really rambunctious. I used to be this dude who'd wait tables and sing along to music in the restaurant. People would put complaint cards about me in the feedback box because I'd make such a spectacle. But now I have all that attention, I've realised how much I need that time to myself, just to chill and be a human being."

Sleeping With Sirens are a band full of surprises. Not least of all because it's just not what you'd expect from them. They don't settle for less any more. Kellin Quinn is a man who has far more to say than you might expect. And while they haven't morphed into Black Flag, their new-found sense of doing what the fuck they want has given Madness an agreeably feisty edge that's previously been missing. And best of all, it's all honest, from within.

"I'm very critical of myself," says Kellin with a wry smile. "There are rare moments that I walk offstage and think that it was a good show. When I hit a wrong note live I get pissed, 'cause I feel like I wanna constantly strive to be better. Once the album was out of our hands, I felt an enormous sense of relief. It's gonna do what it does, and I'm just gonna keep striving."

That's how Sleeping With Sirens are taking care of business this year. We're in.

MADNESS IS OUT MARCH 16 VIA EPITAPH. SLEEPING WITH SIRENS TOUR THE UK WITH PIERCE THE VEIL FROM MARCH 29. SEE THE GIG GUIDE

INSIDE KELLIN'S LYRIC BOOK!

MR QUINN GUIDES US AROUND HIS FAVOURITE MOMENTS ON MADNESS

"MY WHOLE LIFE THEY SAID I'D BE NOTHING / BUT I'M SOMETHING / I WOULD RATHER BE THE STRAY THAN BE NOTHING TO NOONE AT ALL"

"SOMETIMES WE ALL LOSE STRENGTH / PLEASE DON'T LOSE YOUR FAITH IN ME"

FROM... THE STRAYS

"This is about being misunderstood but embracing the fact that that's okay. A lot of the kids that come to our shows are perhaps not 'the norm' – I'd consider them to be unique in a lot of ways. It's to do with defiance and self-confidence; you can be whoever you want to be and be happy and comfortable in that knowledge."

FROM... MADNESS

"It's about a person reaching the end of their life and passing on what they've figured out about life to the next generation. Death is a powerful thing and sometimes seen as the end of a story, but it can also be the beginning of something new for someone else if they keep their faith and do things for the right reasons."

"WOULD YOU SAVE ME A SPARK? / WE'LL START A FIRE, SHINE A LIGHT IN THE DARK"

"WILL WE EVER FIND A WAY TO COVER UP THESE SCARS? / I FINALLY SEE THE BEAUTY IN EVERYTHING WE ARE"

FROM... SAVE ME A SPARK

"I believe that, as a musician, you can impact a lot of issues in people's lives by injecting positivity and goodwill into them. All it takes is one person acting to change something for the better if that person has the right mind-set. They can be the spark that ignites an entire fire, impacting people in a good way."

FROM... PARASITES

"This lyric can be taken in a literal sense concerning self-harm. Alternatively, there is a metaphorical sense of the struggles and tribulations you go through in your life. Sometimes, especially when you're young, you can see everything as *so* important, like every day will be your last day. But it won't be and you will make it through."

GOODBYE TO THE JUNGLE!

2015 HAS SEEN BANDS FROM ASKING ALEXANDRIA TO BULLET FOR MY VALENTINE AND BLINK-182 LOSE MEMBERS. BUT WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR THOSE WHO SPLIT FROM MEGASTAR BANDS? THREE LEGENDS REVEAL WHAT LEAVING THE SPOTLIGHT IS LIKE...

STEVEN ADLER

DRUMS, 1985 – 1990

THE STICKSMAN WHO PROVED TOO OUT OF CONTROL FOR EVEN THE MOST DANGEROUS BAND IN THE WORLD...

WHAT WAS IT LIKE HAVING THAT FIRST JAM ONCE THE FINAL GUNS N' ROSES LINE-UP WAS SETTLED?

STEVEN ADLER: "We just went in there and had a great time. The next day, we played the Troubadour [on the Sunset Strip] to about two people, and the morning after that, we got in a car and drove to Seattle. But, we only made it as far as Bakersfield [about 100 miles north of LA], so we hitchhiked the rest of the journey and somehow survived! Everything happened within just a few days and it just got better from there. The experience was just magic. I think at that point we realised, 'This is it, our time is now, let's conquer the world!' And the rest was history."

WHAT WAS IT LIKE SEEING A YOUNG AXL AT WORK?

"You know, Axl is brilliant at what he does. The guy is such a genius. It's just a shame that some geniuses happen to be crazy. Just look at Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde – the guy is a genius scientist, but also fucking crazy. Or, as Axl would prefer me to say, look at Beethoven! He was a genius but also totally crazy. How's that, Axl, is that better for you (*laughs*)?"

WHAT WERE YOUR FINAL MONTHS IN THE BAND LIKE?

"There were a lot of drugs and a lot of excess. We'd been touring for three years already and needed a break. But the train wasn't stopping. Everything came to a crazy head one day when we were recording [Use Your Illusion II opener] Civil War at A&M Records. Everything went up in flames. It wasn't fun any more. We desperately needed time off and it didn't happen, and everyone started holding grudges. It's a shame, but I'm so glad I was part of it while it was great. To this day, I'm proud of what we did."

"EVERYTHING WENT UP IN FLAMES. IT WAS JUST A MESS"
STEVEN ADLER

WHAT WENT THROUGH YOUR MIND WHEN THEY EVENTUALLY FIRED YOU?

"My mind-set was like, 'Yes! I get to sleep!' But the other side of me felt like these guys were throwing me away like I never existed. It was just a mess. It was a really hard time for me, but I survived and grew from it. I just turned 50 and my body knows I'm not 20 any more. I was living like I was 20 for the past 30 years! I want to do different things with my life and had to take responsibility for it to happen. And I did. I got a sponsor, I'm on a [rehab] programme and I am proud to say I'm enjoying it! I had to get rid of all my old friends, and I mean *everybody*. But, I feel this year is going to be one for me to achieve my goals."

IS THERE EVEN A REMOTE CHANCE OF EVER SEEING THE CLASSIC GUNS N' ROSS LINE-UP REUNITE?

"God works in mysterious ways, but I don't know. Personally, I think we owe it to our fans to give them what they want. They put us here. But I wish I could just see the guys more often – like, go out for dinner, or just do *something*."

STEVEN DRUMS IN THE BAND ADLER, WHO HAVE A NEW SINGLE DUE OUT THIS YEAR

WORDS: AMIT SHARMA, DAN SLESSOR PHOTOS: ROBERT JOHN/IDOLS

CHAD CHANNING
NIRVANA
DRUMS, 1988 – 1990

THE MAN WHO RULED THE DRUM STOOL BEFORE A CERTAIN DAVE GROHL'S ARRIVAL...

"I'M GLAD I LEFT WHEN I DID"
CHAD CHANNING

HOW DID YOU FIRST BECOME INVOLVED WITH NIRVANA?
CHAD CHANNING: "There was a show in Tacoma at a place called The Community World Theater, and the band I was in was called Tic-Dolly-Row, and Ben Shepherd of Soundgarden was actually the singer of our band. We opened up for this band called Bliss, which, of course, was Nirvana before they changed their name. I remember them being *really* loud and looking really crazy – I think Kurt had platform shoes on, and crushed velvet bell-bottoms. After the show, I was introduced to them and they said they were looking for a drummer. I went to check them out at another show and we were on the same page, so I said, 'Okay, let's jam!'"

OVERALL, HOW WAS YOUR TIME IN NIRVANA?
"It was mostly good for me. I enjoyed the touring and meeting new people and the recording experiences and all of that stuff. Overall, it was pretty fun."

WHAT HAPPENED THAT LED TO YOUR DEPARTURE FROM THE BAND?
"I've always wanted to be a songwriter, and I'd hoped at one point I could participate in the band like that. Shortly after [1989 debut album] Bleach, Kurt talked about me and Krist [Novoselic, bass] helping in the songwriting, and I was enthused for that. But it just never ended up happening. After a while, I wanted to do more than what I was doing. But the split was always a musical thing, and we remained good friends after that."

LOOKING BACK ON THAT TIME, ARE YOU STILL GLAD YOU DEPARTED AT THE POINT YOU DID?
"I am. The way I see it is, maybe if things had worked out then my wallet would be a little bigger, but there are no sacrifices worth making if it doesn't lead to happiness. It was really cool [watching them go on to have success]. When I first heard Nevermind [the first record without Chad], I thought it was *fantastic*."

WERE YOU GLAD TO HAVE AVOIDED THE SCRUTINY AND PRESSURE AS THEIR POPULARITY GREW?
"Yeah. I once had a conversation with Krist and he said, 'When I think about those old days, when we were struggling and just touring, those were really the good old days.' Things just got really, really crazy, and with all the stuff that went down after I left the band, for me it's kind of 'nice' in the sense that I don't really get those questions."

DO YOU HAVE ANY REGRETS RELATED TO THAT PERIOD OF YOUR LIFE?
"No, I am happy with the way everything lays. I'm satisfied. The way I see things is that life is a strange thing and everybody has a part to play, whether it's music or a job or whatever, and, to me, I figured that I was the perfect puzzle piece at the time, and that's kinda how it goes. I played my part and I enjoyed it."

WHERE WERE YOU WHEN YOU HEARD THAT KURT HAD DIED?
"I was driving my car. I turned on my radio and heard that a body had been found at [Kurt's] house. I'd heard that he had been having some issues anyway, and then, sure enough, they came back after a commercial break and said it was Kurt's body. I was like, 'Holy crap...' It was a such a shocker."

CHAD NOW PLAYS IN THE BAND BEFORE CARS. SEE BEFORECARS.COM FOR INFORMATION

MATT SHARP
weezer
BASS, 1992 – 1998

HE HELPED START A GEEK-ROCK REVOLUTION – AND HE DOESN'T HAVE A SINGLE REGRET...

HOW DID YOUR LIFE IN WEEZER START?
MATT SHARP: "Pat [Wilson, drums], Rivers [Cuomo, vocals/guitar] and I were roommates for about a year. We had been living in LA, sharing this suave place in West Hollywood in LA, but none of us were making any kind of money. We had this great apartment and not a penny to spend on furniture. We didn't even have beds! Later, I moved to Northern California, did a couple of trips around the country, and when I got back to LA a year later Pat met me at the station and played me a cassette of some songs he and Rivers had been working on. The Sweater Song came on and that was it for me."

HOW DID YOU FEEL AS THE BAND STARTED TO GAIN POPULARITY AND CELEBRITY?
"My role was to figure out what we needed to be and how to get there, and to kind of guide us through what we were trying to do. 'Where are we trying to go? What do we need to do to get there?' I think bass players automatically get that job because there's nothing else to do! When we received some notoriety, the one thing that held us together is that Rivers and I would put down each other and the group *so* brutally. We had a super-pessimistic view of our own self-worth, and that shielded us, because we knew no-one else could put us down more than we put ourselves down. The two of us were unified in the beginning of the group and for some time after that."

WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOU DEPARTING?
"Well, I got fired, so, in a sense, I didn't really depart, I was pushed out the door (*laughs*)! It's kind of a funny thing. For years and years and years people would ask me that question – 'So, why did you quit?' One of the reasons why I chose not to speak about it was because some of the best memories of my life were ones we shared, which I'll always love and think fondly of. As a person who used to really like reading biographies of bands, I never liked reading the infighting stuff."

"THEY'RE SOME OF MY FAVOURITE MEMORIES"
MATT SHARP

LOOKING BACK ON IT NOW, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?
"I don't know of any other life than the one I've lived, and the things that they have gone on to do would not have been what they would have done with me in the band. I don't look at any scenario they've been in and think, 'God, I wish I was there.' For the most part, their choices aren't choices that I feel would have probably been made if I was in the group. To be in Weezer I would probably have to be given the keys to the entire ship with absolute power to make all the choices. Well, not that – that sounds bad! – but yeah, I'm happy where I am!"

MATT CURRENTLY FRONTS THE RENTALS, WHOSE NEW ALBUM, LOST IN ALPHAVILLE, IS OUT NOW

Gerard: devastated at the loss of his second badge

"I miss playing with MIKEY. I'd love to do it again in the FUTURE"

IT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN THE MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE REUNION WE'RE ALL PRAYING FOR, BUT WHEN GERARD WAY WAS REUNITED WITH HIS BROTHER ONSTAGE RECENTLY, THE WORLD COULDN'T HELP BUT SMILE. GERARD REVEALS HIS SIBLING PRIDE – AND NEW ALBUM PLANS! – TO K!'S ROD YATES...

When Gerard Way walks into the media tent at Soundwave Festival in Sydney, he's dressed in the same suit he was wearing onstage less than an hour ago. Loose-fitting and dotted with sweat stains, such is his commitment to the visual aspect of his solo project that he won't let his guard down and change into slacks until he's finished a signing at 6:30pm, two hours from now. For a man who was performing in 30-degree heat only half an hour before, he looks remarkably refreshed, which is doubly impressive given he started his day by throwing up on his bandmates on the way to the venue.

"I got really motion sick," he groans. "I hadn't eaten breakfast, I was really dehydrated, so I tried to drink some water. It was this stop-and-go traffic and we were in one of those shuttle vans and it was a lot of this (*makes lurching motion*), and eventually I just threw up. Gnarly."

Gerard has been making the most of his time in Sydney. Two days before our interview, he climbed onstage with Rise Against when they supported the Foo Fighters to race through a version of the Misfits' Astro Zombies. The night prior, he went to see New Found Glory, who are also on the Soundwave bill. And earlier in the week he supported Smashing Pumpkins, the act that inspired him and brother Mikey to form My Chemical Romance after they saw them play at Madison Square Garden in 1996.

Speaking of Mikey, Gerard set the internet aflutter a few weeks ago when he reunited with his brother onstage in Tokyo on February 17, the first time the duo had played together since My Chemical Romance's break-up. Which seems like as good a place as any to start the conversation...

"Hey, Mikey, have you seen my other badge?": the Ways reunited in Japan

HOW DID MIKEY COME TO BE IN JAPAN WITH YOU?

GERARD WAY: "He was in Japan just to hang out. He's just gone a year clean and sober, so I think he wanted to treat himself. He said, 'Hey, I'm thinking of coming to Japan,' and I said, 'That's great! Would you do a song with us?' And he said, 'Absolutely!' He learned it before he got on the plane. We met up with him in Tokyo and he did Don't Try, which is a song that didn't actually make the record [Hesitant Alien, Gerard's debut], but it seems like it's becoming a fan-favourite. It's making me regret not putting it on the record a little bit, because I'm starting to love it more and more, too."

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TURNING AROUND DURING THAT SONG AND SEEING MIKEY ON BASS?

"It was amazing. We miss playing with each other. It brought back a lot of

PHOTOS: MARTIN PHILBEY

memories in the best possible way. Looking over and playing with him is something I'd just grown so used to, and I always thought he was going to be there, so I definitely feel like, in the future, I would love to play with him again."

WHAT DID IT MEAN TO YOU WHEN HE CELEBRATED BEING ONE YEAR SOBER?
"I'm just so proud of him. It was years of struggling with addiction and depression, and I know what that's like 'cause I went through it too. To see him take charge of his life and say, 'I need help'… I was so proud of him."

WAS IT HARD FOR YOU BEING AWAY ON TOUR WHILE HE WAS BATTLING HIS ADDICTIONS?
"It was. But I was always there for him as much as I could be, on the phone, or we text each other all the time. But it was hard being on the road while he was still battling it. He's really come out the other end."

WHAT CHANGES CAN YOU SEE IN HIM?
"I just see that he's stable and he's happier, and what I'm really psyched on for him is that he's really figuring out what he wants to do – what the next part of his life is going to be."

YOU MENTIONED THE SONG DON'T TRY DIDN'T MAKE IT ONTO HESITANT ALIEN. ARE YOU STILL PLANNING ON RELEASING THE OTHER SONGS THAT DIDN'T MAKE THE CUT?
"As soon as we find the time. It'll be amazing to do. There's about five or six songs that people haven't heard – at least, not recorded versions. I have to go in and finish some stuff, finishing off vocals, adding guitars… And then there's so many demos, too."

DO YOU HAVE A TIMELINE FOR WHEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN?
"I know that I have a little time off until May. I've got a couple of months to do it."

YOU'VE ALSO BEEN PLAYING SOME NEW SONGS LIVE, KID NOTHING AND CHEAP LIGHTS. HOW FAR ARE YOU INTO HAVING THE FOLLOW-UP TO HESITANT ALIEN WRITTEN?
"Not very. I write when I get inspired, and I do have days where I sit at home and write. [I don't] force myself to do it, but you have to have a schedule. I can't be writing comics all the time! But I think the writing will really start when I get home from Soundwave. A big chunk will probably get done in the summer."

YOU'VE MENTIONED IN INTERVIEWS THERE MIGHT BE A SOUL OR FUNK INFLUENCE CREEPING IN?
"I think so. That's what I'm really interested in, in terms of incorporating it into my sound. It's something different and something I haven't gone for yet. I'm not sure it'll [happen] once I start recording, but that's where my head's at."

AND DO YOU HAVE A START DATE FOR RECORDING?
"Maybe October."

ANOTHER THING ON YOUR MIND, IT WOULD SEEM FROM YOUR RECENT SHOWS, ARE THE ISSUES FACED BY TRANSGENDER PEOPLE. YOU'VE MADE A POINT OF ADDRESSING THE CROWD AND OFFERING YOUR SUPPORT – WHEN DID IT BECOME SOMETHING YOU FELT YOU NEEDED TO TALK ABOUT?
"It was something I became aware of from social media. My wife's got a few [transgender] friends, so I've been exposed from her stories. But mainly just from using Twitter and social media, I became very aware of what was going on. There was this big shift happening amongst the youth and they were struggling. And you start to learn about the really ugly side of things, like the reconditioning programs where they try to reverse the process of these kids wanting to change gender, pretty ugly stuff. So, I feel like they just need a lot of support. Especially the young ones. All of them, really."

"TO BE A KID THAT'S TRANSGENDER, YOU HAVE TO BE FEARLESS"
Gerard Way

HAVE YOU RECEIVED MUCH FEEDBACK FROM TRANSGENDER PEOPLE?
"Yeah, absolutely. Every day. And I've met kids at shows. Sometimes I'll get to do a signing after a show if there's time, and I'll usually meet at least a handful of either non-binary kids or transgender kids."

IS THERE SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR MUSIC THAT GIVES THEM A SAFE PLACE?
"I think because I'm expressive, and because I'm pretty fearless with the expressiveness, that maybe there's a connection there for them that they feel safe at one of my shows. 'Cause to be a kid that's transgender, you have to be fearless. There's some connection there."

HAVE YOU EVER STRUGGLED WITH GENDER?
"No. I had at times been maybe a little confused, like a little gender confused when I was a boy, even into my teen years, but I'd always really identified as a male."

EARLIER YOU SAID YOU CAN'T JUST WRITE COMICS ALL THE TIME. BUT HOW ARE THINGS PROGRESSING WITH THE UMBRELLA ACADEMY SERIES THREE?
"I'm in the outlining stage. I go to script probably in the next two weeks, 'cause Gabriel [Bá], I believe, will start drawing around April. So, pretty much as soon as I get home I have to get my outline finished and get the script. I'm excited about it."

WILL THERE BE SOME SURPRISES IN STORE?
"For sure. It's shaping up to be my favourite. Definitely very different than the other two."

HOW SO?
"The Umbrella Academy is in it, but it starts off by focusing on a lot of different characters – what happened to a lot of these bad guys when The Umbrella Academy were kids, and things like that. It deals a lot with what otherwise would be background characters. It also gets into the personal lives of some of The Umbrella Academy – you get more about The Rumor's daughter, and her relationship with her daughter and ex-husband."

AND YOU ALSO GOT TO WRITE FOR SPIDER-MAN RECENTLY, RIGHT?
"I did one single issue of Edge Of Spider-Verse [released last October]. The editor of Marvel, Nick Lowe, came to me and said, 'You can do whatever you want,' 'cause it's all these alternate-universe Spider-Men. So I came up with this machine called Spider, and I did something like 22 pages. It was really cool to play in that universe. I was excited 'cause I got to throw Daredevil in it."

TO FOCUS AGAIN ON MUSIC, IS THERE SOME FEEDBACK YOU'VE RECEIVED ABOUT HESITANT ALIEN THAT'S BLOWN YOU AWAY?
"Some of the nicest things that I've heard said about the album is that when you listen to it, it makes you want to go make something. And that's part of the idea of why I do what it is I do – to inspire people to go make art, and write, do all that stuff."

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF AS A SOLO ARTIST?
"It's taught me to really value what I do. It's taught me to kind of take ownership of what I do and accept it and embrace it and have fun with it. There's a lot of stress being a solo artist, 'cause you realise all the weight is going to be on you. But you learn to have fun with it. You accept the fact that, yes, people do want to come and see you, which even in My Chemical Romance was always a hard thing to accept – 'Oh, people want to see us.' So, I guess there is some stuff I had to get used to."

DID YOU HAVE ANY PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS ABOUT GOING SOLO THAT HAVE BEEN SMASHED?
"(*Long pause*) In your head you think it's going to be easier, but it's still just as much hard work, it ends up being more. But I'm much happier doing the quality of work. I'm much happier doing more work for less pay because I enjoy it more."

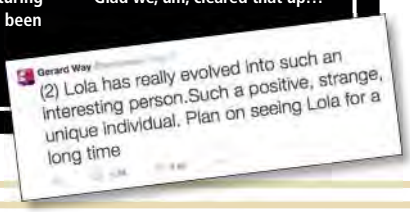
LIVIN' LA VIDA LOLA!

GERARD EXPLAINS THE CONSTANT EVOLUTION OF HIS NEW FURRY PAL

Hands up if you know quite what Lola exactly is? Nope, us neither – and it turns out Gerard is still figuring it out, too. The man himself recently described his pink pal as a "positive, strange, unique individual" (see inset), but, well, beyond that…

"Lola's kind of like a companion, an imaginary companion," Gerard tries to explain. "Lola's an adventuring companion. Lola's always been very hard to explain, but the personality and the voice of Lola has become very important to what it is I do. The person that runs and is Lola is very interesting and makes me aware of stuff, too. I learn a lot from Lola."

Glad we, um, cleared that up…



Yep, still not over that missing badge…

EVEN MORE SOUNDWAVE!

Turn to page 48 now for the full lowdown on Gerard's onstage exploits Down Under – and the definitive verdict on Slipknot, Fall Out Boy and tons more!

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JUST ADD BLU-TACK AND BARE WALLS, AND VOILA!

ANDY BIERSACK, BLACK VEIL BRIDES

This shot wasn't easy to pull off, you know… "We had to talk BVB's lighting technician into playing with the stage lights for these images of Andy," recalls K! photographer Andrew Lipovsky. And there was us thinking it was just Tom DeLonge in a UFO trying to abduct Mr Biersack…

TAY JARDINE, WE ARE THE IN CROWD

We've seen enough films to know that ninjas need stealth and agility, and Tay's clearly got all the necessary skills. "My nephew was taking a nap next door to our studio, so Tay had to be quiet!" K! snapper Andrew reveals. She's a handful of throwing stars away from being a KILLING MACHINE.

FALL OUT BOY

"At the end of the shoot we had a full trash bag of confetti and, lucky for them, the band were not required to help with the cleaning," said K! photographer Andrew. They had fun making the mess, though. Look at Joe! He's having the best day of his life, bless 'im. We're good to our bands, we are.

SAM CARTER, ARCHITECTS

Either Sam is trying to look really 'ard with that pose or he's actually just flipping freezing down in Brighton. "The sea there is pretty cold in August, but in January… no thank you!" says K! photographer Paul Harries. Which would explain why we never got those snorkelling shots back…

JOSH FRANCESCHI & ALEX GASKARTH, YMAS & ATL

Josh and Alex broke hearts on the cover of this year's Valentine's Day special, and look, isn't Josh sorry about it. "I really have no idea what he's doing," K! snapper Paul ponders. Don't try those puppy dog eyes at us, Josh. It doesn't work. Oh, sod it, you're forgiven.

ENTER SHIKARI

Our shoots are now so ambitious, we're taking bands to the moon. That's a lie. Sorry. K! photographer Paul said: "To shatter the illusion of this image, the guys were actually shot in the dining room of a London rehearsal studio." Next you'll tell us those moon gloves are actually oven gloves…

KERRANG!

ANDY BIERSACK

BLACK VEIL BRIDES

PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

KERRANG!

TAY JARDINE

WE ARE THE IN CROWD

PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

KERRANG!
FALL OUT BOY

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

KERRANG!

SAM CARTER

ARCHITECTS

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

KERRANG!

ENTER SHIKARI

PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

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KNAPSACK GOOD RIDDANCE MINERAL OFF! THE DWARVES SUICIDE SILENCE
COLD WORLD TITLE FIGHT BANE TRASH TALK AS FRIENDS RUST BASEMENT
EMMURE MAKE DO & MEND BANNER PILOT SUCH GOLD STICK TO YOUR GUNS
MASKED INTRUDER THE REAL MCKENZIES NO TURNING BACK FRENZAL RHOMB TEENAGE BOTTLEROCKET
WHILE SHE SLEEPS CEREMONY OFF WITH THEIR HEADS THE SMITH STREET BAND THE SWELLERS
PSYCHO 44 TURBOWOLF WHITECHAPEL REIGN SUPREME TURNSTILE IRON REAGAN OBEY THE BRAVE
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DEATH SHRED
peta2.de ANIMAL LIBERATION
Intro OK!
HARDROCK
4gamers
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LARGE
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REIGN

THEY'VE BLAZED THEIR WAY FROM PUB TO ARENA DOWN UNDER, AND NOW, THE AMITY

You might not be that familiar with the name The Amity Affliction. There was a time when not many were – not even in their home country of Australia, where now, after 10 years together, they've transformed from bar-bothering upstarts into arena-filling behemoths with two Number One albums to their name. Four albums and nearly twice as many line-up changes have seen hardcore twist into post-hardcore and eventually morph into the band's now signature metalcore sound – shaped and polished, most recently, on 2014's Let The Ocean Take Me – that has announced Amity as Pretty Bloody Massive.

Change is, then, something The Amity Affliction are more than accustomed to by now. None of those four albums have been completed by the same bandmates. Yet at the band's heart remain two constants: the twin force of frontman Joel Birch and clean vocalist/bassist Ahren Stringer (who has himself switched instruments over the years). Two "polar opposites", as Joel describes them, with one shared creative vision for their band.

It's a vision that has seen The Amity Affliction light fires in venues around Australia quicker than 40-degree heat can ignite the bush. And it's a blaze that's coming to the UK…

"AMITY ISN'T A POWER STRUGGLE. JOEL AND I WILL ALWAYS WIN"

AHREN STRINGER

Four years and two whole different worlds separate Ahren, 29, and Joel, 33 – born not so much on different sides of the tracks, as on completely different lines. Joel Birch was brought up by a mother who immersed herself in religion following the departure of his father when he was just two. His Pentecostal Christian private school refused to teach evolution, and preached that the Earth was only 6,000 years old. "It was so cut off from the real world," Joel says. "School was pretty easy for me." An only child, he passed his days on a small hobby farm in Palmwoods, Queensland, indulging a love of sport – cricket, rugby and volleyball, the latter of which he harboured dreams of playing for Australia.

By contrast, an hour down the road in the larger, "close-minded, shitty town" of Gympie, Ahren Stringer was "getting into a lot of trouble, and a lot of fights". One of the multiple times he found himself suspended from school was over the production of a tennis ball bomb [*Don't try this at home, eh? – Health And Safety Ed*]. "We had a great family, though," he smiles.

A common thread ran through these most different of kids, though. Joel's first exposure to metal – his "defining moment" – came via the son of his mother's work colleague, who introduced him to a well-worn Megadeth VHS. Ahren's fascination with punk rock was born from reading skate magazines, and fed further when a guitar was thrust into his hands at the age of 12 by his music-loving father. "He offered to buy me a motorbike or a guitar," Ahren laughs. "I chose the bike, but he got me the guitar anyway because it was cheaper."

So, when their paths crossed in the Mary Street Nightclub in nearby Brisbane in 2003, the pair hit it off. By then, Ahren and some local friends had already made The Amity Affliction their pressing concern. Joel was bouncing between his former band, an obsessive dedication to his graffiti art, and whatever friend's sofa was available that day. "I had my fair share of sleeping on benches or in church gardens, too," he admits. "I think I've blocked a lot of the negative part of that time out."

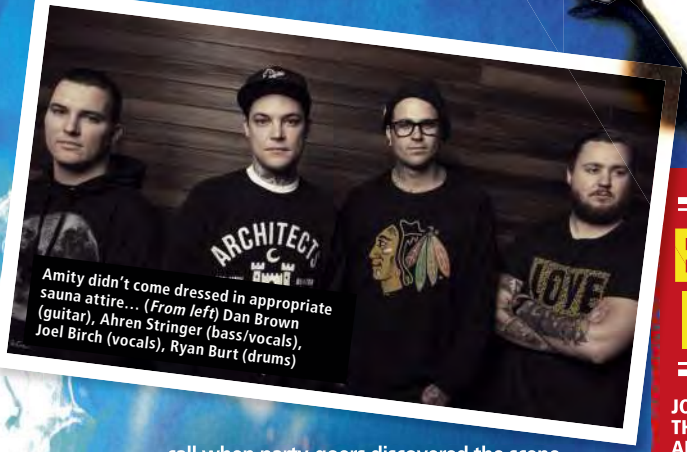
In each other, though, the pair wouldn't simply find a bandmate. They'd find the brother that neither had grown up with.

Today, Joel describes his relationship with Ahren as like "an old married couple. We bicker constantly, but it's fun bickering. In some ways we're the same person, in others we couldn't be more different." It's as true under the surface as it is on it, where Joel is the sensitive, bleeding heart artist to Ahren's wild-eyed rockstar. Joel – quiet, considered, distracted to the point of a passing dog breaking his train of thought – elects to sit with Kerrang! in a vegan café in one of Melbourne's most bohemian districts. Ahren – louder, bolder, more confident – meanwhile, is forced into an apologetic retreat to a coffee shop from the house he shares with Deez Nuts' wildcard frontman, JJ Peters, such is the state of the scene within.

It's a bond formed not by bloodlines, but blood itself. Asked when his relationship with his creative partner first found a deeper connection, Joel – who had long suffered from depression – speaks of the night seven years ago in which he retreated from sight at a house party, found a secluded corner of the backyard, and attempted to take his own life. Ahren was the first port of

PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

Joel Birch (*left*) and Ahren Stringer: And that, kids, is why you don't play with fireworks…



Amity didn't come dressed in appropriate sauna attire… (*From left*) Dan Brown (guitar), Ahren Stringer (bass/vocals), Joel Birch (vocals), Ryan Burt (drums)

call when party-goers discovered the scene.

"It was embarrassing, shameful," Joel quietly says today. "But I'd never had anyone I felt I could open up to. The few people I'd told about the way I had been feeling – and feeling since I was a teenager – had told me I was a faggot and had to man up. But that night helped me process a lot of what I was thinking in my head, and it really opened up [mine and Ahren's] relationship. We're so much more open with each other now."

"Joel is my best friend," Ahren says. "It's a mutual understanding. I know what depression feels like, and I know when Joel is suffering. We don't need to talk about it. We have this unwritten, unspoken knowledge of each other. We know exactly what we're thinking and feeling just by looking at each other.

"I would do anything for him," Ahren finishes. "And I know if I ever needed anything, he'd be the first person I called."

That Joel and Ahren are the sole constant in a band whose line-up has at times resembled a revolving door surprises neither of them. Theirs is an unbreakable bond both personally and creatively. Ahren provides Joel with the "musical ability I never had" – a way of translating the pro-life, antisuicide message that runs deep through Amity's lyrics into a tangible entity. In turn, Joel provides Ahren's band with "its voice; the demons and troubled soul that makes for great songwriting".

It's a dynamic that, Ahren acknowledges, isn't easy for others. "I've never thought about how hard our dynamic must be for other people to work with," he admits. "Some people can't take a back seat. I know I couldn't. But Amity isn't a power struggle. Joel and I will always win."

You might not be that familiar with the name The Amity Affliction. But you soon will be. Of that, Joel Birch and Ahren Stringer are sure.

THE AMITY AFFLICTION TOUR WITH OF MICE & MEN THIS MONTH. SEE THE GIG GUIDE. IF YOU'VE BEEN AFFECTED BY ANYTHING DISCUSSED IN THIS FEATURE, CONTACT THE SAMARITANS ON 08457 90 90 90

BROTHERS IN ARMS

JOEL AND AHREN SHARE THE SECRET TRUTH ABOUT ONE ANOTHER…

AHREN ON… JOEL

"Joel is really talented, and can do a lot of things that I can't. He's very gifted with lyrics and words. I admire his songwriting. He's got compassion in opposite places to me. He cares about the Earth and animals, where I find it impossible to see how I can make a difference. He doesn't care what people think about him, either. I'd lose sleep over whether someone liked me, but Joel can simply say, 'Fuck that person,' and not give a second's thought to them. That's really admirable, in my eyes. But he can get furious very quickly. He has a short fuse. The smallest thing can set him off… which I find quite funny!"

JOEL ON… AHREN

"I admire Ahren's compassion the most. He can give people a second, or even third, chance, where I write them off straightaway. He has a lot of empathy, and will side with the underdog. He's very sure of himself, too – he backs himself. Not in an egotistical way, but he'll know when he's done something well. He's very strong-willed, but sensitive when he comes to giving feedback on the lyrics I send over for him to work with. He's much more comfortable in a group than I am. I can be quite reserved and quiet around people. He loves Ke$ha, too, which makes me physically angry…"

OF FIRE!

AFFLICTION ARE SET TO IGNITE THE UK. SAM COARE BRACES FOR THE BACKDRAFT…

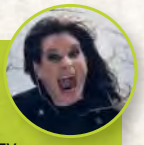
ROCK'S WEIRDEST

WITH KURT COBAIN'S CREDIT CARD RECENTLY UP FOR AUCTION, WE TAKE A LOOK AT THE ODD AND OUTRIGHT BIZARRE WAYS TO GET CLOSER TO THE BANDS YOU LOVE...

A HANDBAG KISSED BY BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG!

It's probably going to be a bit of a stretch to get an actual kiss from Billie Joe Armstrong, so what's the next best thing? A handbag kissed by the Green Day superstar, that's what! This very item went under the hammer in 2009 to raise cash for non-profit organisation Stars For A Cause. Billy signed the handbag with the same lipstick that was also used to seal his kiss, and it even came with its own velvet-lined (basket) case.

OZZY'S QUAD BIKE!



Many things have tried to kill Ozzy Osbourne over the years, but none have come quite so close as this Yamaha Banshee quad bike in 2003, when he was seriously injured bombing it round the grounds of his Buckinghamshire estate. Luckily, the Prince Of Darkness was raced over to a London hospital where emergency surgery was needed after breaking his neck and six ribs. Four years later, the family put the bike up for auction, as well as the gilt-bronze female figure lamp that reportedly caused their house fire in 2006. Obviously they had gotten a bit paranoid...

GUNS N' ROSES' CLOTHES DRYER!

Ever wondered how Axl and his cohorts always look like they've just stepped out of a Lenor advert? This 278-pound, front-loading electrical Kenmore Dryer – which appeared on eBay after a warehouse clear-out in 2012 – may have had something to do with it. They could have called the auction Welcome To The Jumble Sale, but no-one thought of that at the time. Other bizarre GN'R artefacts sold over the years include Axl's love letters and marriage certificate from when he wed actress Erin Everly, as well as Slash's sneakers from some low-key Super Bowl gig with The Black Eyed Peas.

AN OLD CHRISTMAS CARD FROM IRON MAIDEN!

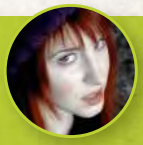
Okay, so obviously it wasn't actually *from* Iron Maiden *to* the highest bidder, but considering it was never addressed to anyone, this is some seriously awesome Maiden swag to add to the shrine. Signed inside by the 1980 line-up fronted by Paul Di'Anno, the cover depicts a grinning Eddie waving a blood-stained guitar above the body of a presumably dead Father Christmas. It'll make the Queen's speech and nan's farts that much more bearable, at the very least.

LEATHER CHAPS SIGNED BY FRED DURST!

We've all heard about Fred's chocolate starfish, so why not show everyone yours with this fetching pair of leather chaps, signed by the Limp Bizkit wisecracker and a host of other celebs, including U.S. television host Jay Leno and Terminator 2 villain Robert Patrick. Imagine the looks you'd get strutting down the local high street, blaring some Bizkit in the cans while mouthing the words to Hot Dog, Nookie and Stink Finger to random passing strangers. Actually, maybe it's best you don't...

ROCK'S WEIRDEST COLLECTIBLES!

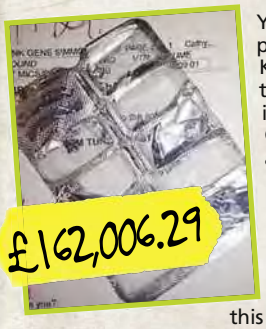
HAYLEY WILLIAMS' HAIR FOLLICLES!



One day, cloning technology will be readily available for all to use from the comfort of our homes, and when that day comes, you'll kick yourself for not snapping up Hayley Williams' beanie. It was sold on eBay to raise funds for the Japanese Red Cross in the wake of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and is pretty much guaranteed to have at least *one* strand of hair stuck inside… Which means, in a not-too-distant-future, the winning bidder could be playing God and cloning their own Hayley to sing in the living room every night.

£262.52

GENE SIMMONS' GUM!



£162,006.29

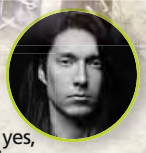
You wouldn't put it past the Kiss legend to see the dollar potential in anything, but Gene's gum was actually auctioned off by Sky Sports show Soccer AM in support of youth unemployment charity Street League. So, this time 'round, Uncle Gene did alright. For the whopping price tag, the winner received the original gum packaging and a copy of The Demon's script for the show, along with the used confectionery. Nobody knows if he licked it up, but, either way, it was a rare opportunity to own a piece of Gene's sticky love gum. [*Enough with the Kiss puns now, thanks… – K! Pun Ed*].

£450

JUSTIN HAWKINS' SWEATY CLOTHES!

Ever been stuck over what to wear on a Friday night? We've all been there, which is why Justin Hawkins donated some of his legendary stage attire – as worn in this pic – to raise a few bob for Mayhew Animal Home. "Your chance to look like a rockstar at the next The Darkness gig – also ideal for job interviews," said the frontman last year. "If you want to upstage the bride, wear it to a wedding. Send off a loved one by wearing it to a funeral."

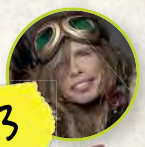
JAKE PITTS' IPHONE!



We know what you're thinking, and yes, the Black Veil Brides gunslinger wisely "cleared everything off it". But Jake was kind enough to leave "a couple funny pictures for whoever does buy it, and a thank you video, taken on the phone for you only". It even comes with proof of having "been to a number I can't count of countries" – there's a crack on the back plate included free of charge. And the lucky 58th bidder seems to be keeping their end of the bargain: the video hasn't appeared on YouTube… yet.

£4,003.58

STEVEN TYLER'S USED BOXER SHORTS!



£65.63

You wouldn't be the first person to ever get inside the Aerosmith frontman's boxers, but in 2009 that dream became a reality for one lucky so-and-so, when the Toxic Twin auctioned off a whole heap of valuables for Musicares MAP Fund, in aid of musicians that need addiction recovery services. And in this particular set of three worn underwear garments sat his lucky pair of Looney Tunes Tasmanian Devil boxer shorts, which once housed Steven's very own hairy whirling tornado of destruction.

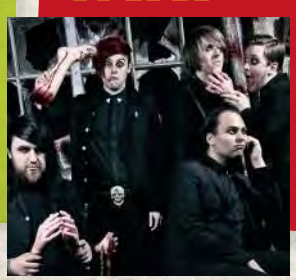
LAYNE STALEY'S TV GUIDE!

Further proof that people will sell just about anything they possibly can, eBay user autographs99 flogged some personal belongings of late Alice In Chains frontman Layne Staley around the 10th anniversary of his death in 2012. Up for auction were his signature black shades worn live and during photo shoots, a flyer advertising the sale of his condo and, even more bizarrely, his TV guide with Celine Dion on the cover. Layne's mother was not best pleased, stating: "This is ghoulish. Layne's things still belong to him, and should be returned to his estate, where his belongings are lovingly cared for by his family in his room."

£1,181.52

WIN! YOUR VERY OWN WEIRD PIECE OF FVK HISTORY!

From Kier's neckerchief to Barrone's boot, we've got a bundle of bizarre collectibles, plucked right off the men themselves! Head to Winit.kerrang.com now for your chance to grab it all!



WORDS: AMIT SHARMA

THE SONGS TH

SAVED MY LIF

HOW DO YOU BECOME ONE OF MODERN METAL'S LEADING LIGHTS? WELL, YOU HATE YOUR OWN SONGS, CHANNEL THE SPIRIT OF SOUL DIVAS, AND MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT SAX APPEAL...

THIS WEEK: AUSTIN CARLILE, OF MICE & MEN

THE SONG THAT MADE ME WANT TO BE A MUSICIAN IS...

WINTER WONDERLAND, KENNY G

"I used to play alto sax. My parents got me this CD when I was young and I learned the whole thing front to back. I would play it all the time, to the point where even my mom – who was always the person with Christmas spirit – would get sick of it, but my dad would be like, 'Play more, play more!'"

FIND IT: The Classic Christmas Album (1988)

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME THINK OF HOME IS...

GOLDEN ROAD, KEITH URBAN

"I've lived all over America, and I don't think home is a specific place as much as it is a feeling. This one *feels* like home to me. It's a country pop song, it's really uplifting and the album it's off is one I associate with having good times, driving around and feeling really free. If I'm in a great mood, I throw it on to take me higher. It just makes me feel like the sun's out and things are going to get better and better."

FIND IT: Golden Road (2002)

THE SONG I WANT TO COVER IS...

BULLS IN THE BRONX, PIERCE THE VEIL

"It's a great song, and they're a great and very musically talented band. They're good friends of ours, too, so it would be a lot of fun to get onstage with them and jam this. I think, to stamp my identity on it, we'd have to add a heavy part, obviously, and maybe a tempo change and a breakdown!"

FIND IT: Collide With The Sky (2012)

THE SONG THAT MADE ME THE MOST CASH IS...

SECOND AND SEBRING, OF MICE & MEN

"I think I'd have to say this song. It was one of the first songs we put out as a band, and it became our biggest song, and also the song that we'd play last every night on tour. Because of its popularity, it helped us get to where we are now – not that we've ever really made much money from our songs! The funny thing is, in the studio the song's name was 'Austin Hates' because I didn't like it at all before I wrote the lyrics. But then, after I wrote them, I fell in love with it. I'm so happy we still get to play this song every single night, and I can sing those lyrics."

FIND IT: Of Mice & Men (2010)

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO CRY IS...

I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU, WHITNEY HOUSTON

"Whitney Houston is one of my favourite female vocalists *ever*. She's amazing! I know the song's cheesy but I don't care. You can hear the emotion and the pain and the passion in her voice – it's amazing. We tracked Restoring Force in the same studio where she recorded this song, and every time I started recording vocals I would belt out (*adopts Whitney voice*) 'And *IIIIIIIIII*...' hoping she would give me some of her powers!"

FIND IT: The Bodyguard OST (1992)

THE OM&M SONG THAT'S HARDEST TO PLAY IS...

GLASS HEARTS, OF MICE & MEN

"It's not hard to play in a technical sense, but it definitely is in an emotional one. The verses are a lot more real to me than people might think. It's about self-harm and literally saying that suicide is the worst thing you could do to the people you care about. It's saying, 'How could you say no-one was listening when I was right here wanting to listen to you?' It's about how I got past a difficult time, and it ends with me saying, 'If I can do it, you can, because I'm not that strong, so please, believe you can do it, too.'"

FIND IT: Restoring Force (2014)

THE SONG WITH THE GREATEST LYRICS IS...

OKAY I BELIEVE YOU, BUT MY TOMMY GUN DON'T, BRAND NEW

"There's a line that goes, '*My tongue's the only muscle in my body that works harder than my heart*'. It's such a cool line that I've always related to, talking about playing music all across the country. But, to me, it has this extra meaning because I've always had heart problems, and I've always loved playing music so much as well. It was pretty cool for me to feel like my tongue was working harder to help keep me alive."

FIND IT: Déjà Entendu (2003)

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR PHOTO: ANDREW LIPOVSKY

THE OM&M SONG WITH THE WORST LYRICS IS...

PURIFIED, OF MICE & MEN

"I'm gonna put it all out there: *none* of us like this song – it just didn't come out the way we wanted it. Our label loved it and they insisted it be the first song released off the album, and everyone heard it and was like, 'What is *this* shit?' We were saying, 'We *told* you no-one was going to like it!' We've only ever played it once, jamming with the Sleeping With Sirens guys, and that was it."

FIND IT: The Flood (2011)

THE LAST SONG I LISTENED TO WAS...

PET, A PERFECT CIRCLE

"I was just in the gym, and Thirteenth Step is one of my favourite records to work out to. It's just so *heavy*. But the thing is nowadays people think heavy has to be a breakdown or chug-chug-chug. Heavy can be lyrical, heavy can be a feeling, or a state of mind."

FIND IT: Thirteenth Step (2003)

THE SONG WITH THE WORST LYRICS IS...

TUESDAY, ILOVEMAKONNEN

"The lyric is '*I got the club going up, on a Tuesday*'. It's saying, 'I'm too busy on the weekend making my drug money so I gotta party on a weekday.' Sure, make your drug money, but if the only time you can turn it up is on a Tuesday night, you should probably get a real job. And it's nominated for a Grammy! What the fuck?!"

FIND IT: ILoveMakonnen (2014)

THE SONG THAT MAKES ME WANT TO STAGE-DIVE IS...

SHORT FUSE, NO WARNING

"It's a two-minute old-school hardcore song. It's a super-punk-rock, stomping-around-in-your-boots hardcore, and it just gets you going so bad. I used to cover it with one of my first bands, and every time we played it, hell *yeah* I stage-dived! It reminds me of a great time in my life, too, when my surrogate family were straightedge dudes who really made me feel I belonged somewhere."

FIND IT: Ill Blood (2002)

'Would I have made it without the MU? Probably. If I was starting out again, would I still join? Definitely.'

—

'The MU has been around even longer than me. Helping musicians of all ages and genres. Let's make sure they continue to do so.

—

Jimmy Page

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Musicians' Union

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1 **Believe in yourself**
Be proud of who you are and what you have achieved

2 **Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it**
No-one can cope on their own - we all need help and support at some point so get advice from family, friends or a professional

3 **Take one step at a time**
Don't feel pressurised or rush into decisions, pace yourself

4 **Look after your body**
Remember that a healthy body is a healthy mind. Get enough sleep, good food and exercise

DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE, IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING TO COPE THEN LET SOMEONE KNOW

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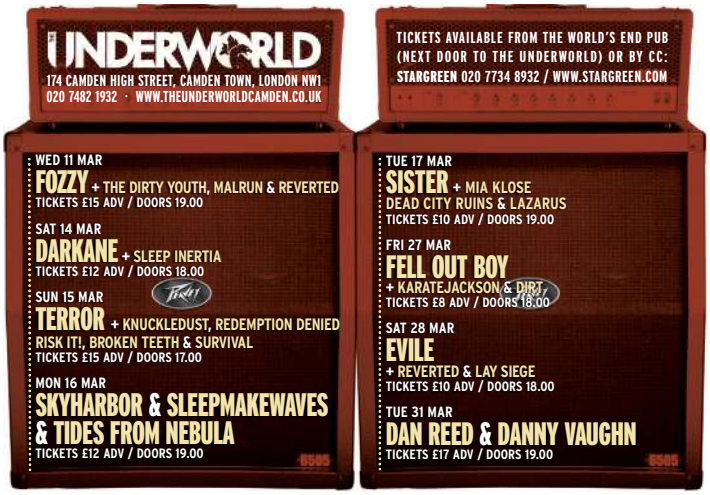


ANATOMY OF A ROCKSTAR

CHARLIE SIMPSON, FIGHTSTAR

CHARLIE'S TAKING TO THE SKIES – THOUGH HE'S AT LEAST LEARNED HE CAN'T FLY ONSTAGE…

I'VE ALWAYS HAD HORRIFIC PROBLEMS WITH MY EARS…

"When I was a kid I had grommets, and then I perforated my eardrum when I was 14. They actually had to do surgery on me to sew my ear together because the hole in it was so big. It's burst again two times since then, so now I can't get any water in my right ear at all or it could really damage it. It's always been an Achilles' heel of mine."

I LOVE INSANE WEATHER…

"One of the most amazing things I've ever seen was a lightning storm in Midwest America. It's so vast and open in that part of the world that the weather becomes epic. I can still picture seeing these enormous electrical storms lighting up the sky. It's utterly inspiring and magical."

I'M GOING TO LEARN TO FLY A PLANE…

"My mum is so scared of flying that she gets the train everywhere she can. But for my 30th birthday, my present is going to be my first flying lesson! I'm going to be the new Bruce Dickinson – we'll do one of those Iron Maiden-style tours, where I pilot us, for Fightstar, just on my plane. We can call it Flightstar!"

MY WORST ONSTAGE INJURY WAS…

"There was one time when I thought I'd broken both my legs. We were playing in Glasgow and, right at the end of the set, I decided it would be a good idea to jump from the stage onto the crowd barrier. I was playing the show with no shoes or socks on and ended up misjudging the jump, so my feet went straight through the grates just before the barrier. I was in the most horrific pain I had ever experienced. They had to literally carry me offstage because I couldn't move."

YES, I'M REALLY TALL…

"The funniest thing about being tall, really, is that people are always going to me, 'Oh, aren't you tall!' and I'm like, 'Oh my god, really? I didn't realise!' My brother is really tall and so are both my parents, so it's not like I'm a giant in a family full of dwarves. The good thing about it was that it meant I could get served in pubs when I was about 16!"

I'M A BOXSET JUNKIE…

"Breaking Bad is probably my favourite show of all time, and I've also gotten into Game Of Thrones recently. I love getting buried in all those American drama series. My excuse is that it's helpful to have something to do on tour because there is so much waiting around involved when you play gigs. Endless TV helps to stave off the boredom!"

THE RECORD THAT UNITES MY BAND IS…

"White Pony [2000] by Deftones joins Fightstar together. We actually have pretty divergent taste within the band, but Deftones is this middle ground where we can all agree, and that album is still their crowning moment. Any time we're in the bus and don't know what to put on, we can always guarantee that this is one thing that everyone is going to enjoy."

THE PERSON I MISS WHEN I'M ON TOUR IS…

"I miss my wife loads when I'm out on the road. When I was about 20, I loved being on tour and thought I could spend forever just playing shows. But as you get older, it becomes a lot harder to be away for long stretches on end. We're expecting a baby soon, too, so that will make it *even* tougher. I always make sure I have access to my phone to keep in contact, but it's never quite the same."

"I'M TAKING FLYING LESSONS. I'LL BE THE NEW BRUCE DICKINSON!"

SEE THEM at DOWNLOAD

PLAYING SOLO IS UNLIKE BEING IN A BAND…

"I've become really good friends with the guys who play with me in my solo project, but it definitely feels different to being in Fightstar. It's amazing that I get the chance to do both things – they're so creatively different. Like, I get to pick everything when it's just me, but I definitely don't in Fightstar! When it's just your name on the poster outside the venue, there's a little bit more pressure, too!"

WORDS: TOMAS DOYLE PHOTO: IAN COLLINS

WANT THE CAREER OF YOUR DREAMS?

Nathan Youd passed the Pen Holding training with ease

THINK IT'S ONLY PLUMBERS, ELECTRICIANS AND LORD SUGAR'S FINEST WHO GET APPRENTICESHIPS? WRONG! AND K!'S HERE TO TELL YOU WHY...

We've all been there. You know your dream job – rockstar/dinosaur wrangler/food-taster – but you can't get it because you don't have the necessary experience. Well, scratch that. Contrary to popular belief, there's a wealth of opportunities career-wise for budding apprentices. Take Nathan Youd, a Junior Account Executive, for example. Nathan works at Tangerine PR – an integrated communications consultancy – and before he embarked on his apprenticeship, he'd never even dreamed of the potential career paths he could take.

"There's a real big scope of apprenticeships out there," Nathan admits. "I quickly found that the connotation of apprenticeships only being for plumbers and hairdressers and the like was all wrong." From PR to photography to radio, you're guaranteed to find an area of interest with apprenticeships – and, best of all, you get paid to do it!

And what else do you get thrown into the deal?

"You get the best of what your mentors have to offer," he says. "Learning on the job was one of the biggest benefits that I had as an apprentice."

HOW DID YOU GET INTO YOUR APPRENTICESHIP, THEN, NATHAN?

"I went to university and did a journalism course, but I left after two semesters, and looked for more exciting career options. Interestingly, I'd been to a uni open day, and they described a PR-based course like the one I'm in now, and I said, 'I don't want to do that!' But now, having done it through the apprenticeship, I couldn't think of anything better to be doing. I honestly can't believe the opportunity that I have."

COMPLETE 1ST TASK 10am

HOW DID YOU GET INTO THE JOB THAT YOU'RE DOING TODAY?

"I was a Juice Academy Social Media Apprentice previously, and now I've graduated to become a Junior Account Executive. That was a yearlong process, and I got a Level 3 qualification in Social Media. Before I started, I had a basic understanding of what the job would involve, but I wasn't aware of the type of career you could get into as an apprentice. I wasn't aware that that was available to people my age, either."

DID YOU EVER IMAGINE MAKING A CAREER OUT OF YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

"From the start of the apprenticeship, I knew that the potential was there to be taken on properly, and it was something to work towards. That was the goal at the end of it, and I was lucky enough to be kept on full-time!"

Mindless Selfie Indulgence

DESCRIBE YOUR AVERAGE DAY AT TANGERINE?

"We come in every morning and have a look at the newspapers to flag any relevant stories to our clients, and have a look at which stories we could take ideas for content from. In a nutshell, my

WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK 1pm

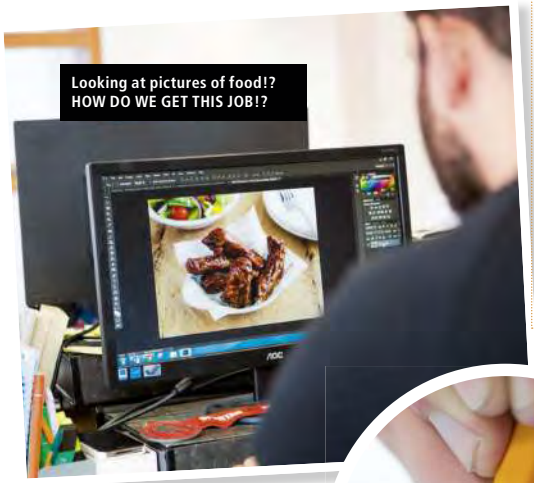
job is all about sourcing, writing, scheduling and seeking out content."

ONCE YOU FIND YOUR STORIES, WHAT DO YOU DO?

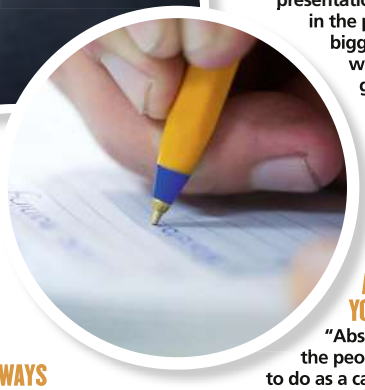
"The team will often get together and come up with ideas for what we can do for our clients. We all pitch in – everyone from directors to apprentices are included. Even if your job title is 'apprentice', you're still valued – and that's something that was really pushed in the company. You're valued as 100 per cent fully-fledged staff member. There's a voice of opinion from every single level at the company."

WAS BRAINSTORMING AND PITCHING IDEAS NERVE-WRACKING AS AN APPRENTICE?

"It came quite naturally, to be honest. Something that is drilled into you here is that your voice deserves to be heard, so pitching ideas in these brainstorm sessions doesn't make me nervous. Sometimes the best ideas can come from people who don't necessarily have an interest in the field, which is why it's so crucial that everyone's voice is heard."



Looking at pictures of food!? HOW DO WE GET THIS JOB!?



TYPICALLY, WHAT ARE THE BEST WAYS YOU BRAINSTORM?

"Sometimes we'll all sit round a table and discuss, but other days we'll get out to a location, in order to get the level of thinking around what would be most relevant to that particular client. For example, if we're working for a fitness client, we'll go to the gym, or if we're working for a culinary client, we'll get their food in. If you're brainstorming at a desk on a daily basis, your ideas are going to get stagnant."

Think being an apprentice is all hard work? Nope. There's also a paintball room

WHAT PLATFORMS DO YOU USE ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS?

"Mobile is one of the main content creations – we're never really off our phones, because we're constantly thinking about Instagram posts and Vines. Twitter and Facebook are the core channels, but it's encouraged to use Instagram and Vine as well to mix things up so your audience isn't just reading text-based content – they're seeing images and videos, too. It's creative, and keeps them engaged. We also use Photoshop a lot to manipulate image-based content for clients. I had a basic understanding of Photoshop before my apprenticeship, but it is definitely something that you become more advanced in – as I was learning from the experts that we have here. Learning these skills from experts is another really big aspect of an apprenticeship."

WHAT KEY SKILLS HAVE YOU PICKED UP IN YOUR DAY-TO-DAY JOB?

"Skill-wise, I've learnt how to create successful presentations – I've had to pitch to businesses in the past year. I think that was one the biggest and most important factors of why I was so successful in this – you get on-the-job experience, and you're learning from professionals at the same time. You're working while you're learning – as opposed to just being lectured with 60 other people at a university. It's a real personalised learning approach."

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND APPRENTICESHIPS TO OTHERS YOUR AGE?

"Absolutely, 100 per cent. A message to the people who are on the fence about what to do as a career would be to just take a step back for a second and evaluate all the options – don't just follow the sheep and think that you *have* to go to university. There are so many options out there in apprenticeships that young people don't necessarily understand. Just take a look!"

TAKE OVER THE WORLD! 6pm

Nathan, three hours into watching the Lars/Whiplash viral video on repeat

APPRENTICE SEVENFOLD

THINK THAT once you've landed yourself an apprenticeship, you'll be stuck doing that job forever? The invaluable experience that apprentices gain will certainly create the foundations in any profession – but they also provide key building blocks to your desired career, too.

"My dream is to go into a label and do marketing," says Amber, who has been working as a Digital Marketing Apprentice at YouTube for the past year. "I've always wanted to work in the marketing side of music, because I adore it."

"IT'S GREAT TO GET YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR!"

AMBER ASKEW

Amber was aware that going into her scheme with YouTube would teach her skills relevant to her current job – but working there has also given her vital experience for the future.

"It's been a massive growing-up experience, coming into a professional environment – but it's also a lot of fun," she enthuses. "I do a lot of research tasks and provide marketing support to my team, but it's different every day. An apprenticeship is a great way to get a foot in the door."

Amber loves her apprenticeship at YouTube, but she's confident that she will one day get her job at her dream music label. "Eventually I'd love to work in the music industry – we shall see where my career goes!"

WIN!

For your chance to win a social media workshop and a laptop, go to Gothinkbig.co.uk/apprenticeships

Apprenticeships GET IN. GO FAR

GO THINK BIG.CO.UK

LIVES

SOUNDS OF THE SUN-DERGROUND!

SOUNDWAVE XV

OLYMPIC PARK, SYDNEY. 28.02 – 01.03, 2015

KKKKK = CLASSIC KKKK = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD KK = AVERAGE K = POOR

WE'RE FREEZING OUR ARSE OFF HERE! AND FESTIVAL SEASON'S STILL MONTHS AWAY. BUT, 10,000 MILES AWAY FROM COLD BRITAIN IN AUSTRALIA, THE SUN'S HOT, THE BEER'S COLD, AND THE ROCK'S ON. SO, GET READY TO GET JEALOUS, AS WE HEAD DOWN UNDER TO JOIN FALL OUT BOY, SLIPKNOT, GERARD WAY, ALL TIME LOW, MARILYN MANSON AND LOADS MORE AT THE WORLD'S HOTTEST ROCK PARTY!

Singing and playing at the same time: hard

SATURDAY

FALL OUT BOY

KKKKK

PETE AND HIS PARTY POSSE MAKE THEIR LONG-OVERDUE SOUNDWAVE DEBUT

FALL OUT Boy's Soundwave appearance has been eight years in the making. As opener The Phoenix is met with deafening screams, and Patrick Stump calls the crowd to arms from atop the drum riser, they're clearly cramming those years into one hourlong set. Joe Trohman shreds his way through an amped-up version of The Kids Aren't Alright, while Andy Hurley is flexing his drum chops with an extended solo before the classic Dance, Dance. And there's no other band here that could seamlessly slip a Disney track – Immortals, complete with video montage – into their set.

"There's a Spider-Man out there!" Pete Wentz hollers. "Make your presence known!" As Spidey loses his web-fluid to Grand Theft Autumn, it's clear this has been well worth the wait. Thnks fr th mmrs, Fall Out Boy.

WORDS: ROD YATES, EMILY SWANSON PHOTOS: MARTIN PHILBEY

5 MINUTES WITH...

PATRICK STUMP

(FALL OUT BOY, *VOCALS/GUITAR*)

YOU HAD A FEW DAYS OFF IN BRISBANE BEFORE COMING TO SYDNEY – WHAT DID YOU GET UP TO?

"I took the rare opportunity to do absolutely nothing. Some comedian was talking about how you can tell when someone's over 30 when they brag about not doing anything over the weekend. That's what it felt like!"

THIS IS A HELL OF A FEST. ANY OTHER BANDS YOU'RE EXCITED TO SEE?

"It's crazy to be warming up and watching Slipknot. We keep bumping into Marilyn Manson's folks, and Smashing Pumpkins and Slash. It's wild. I feel like we're in such a strange position as a band, 'cause we're considerably heavier than a lot of pop bands, but we're considerably more pop than a lot of heavy bands. So we straddle this line."

WHEN SOUNDWAVE IS OVER, WHAT ONE MEMORY DO YOU THINK YOU'LL TAKE FROM IT?

"Rob Halford sat down to talk with us straight after coming offstage playing with Judas Priest. He came and sat down with us and was like, 'Oh, it's so hot onstage.' It was the coolest!"

Pete Wentz retained his crown as Spot The Lighting Rig champ

SATURDAY

THE BEST OF THE REST

12:45PM Right, let's get this shit started. And today we have LOWER THAN ATLANTIS (KKKK) kicking things off. It's unclear how many people can break through Mike Duce's East London twang, but the riffs are good.

1:03PM English Kids In America is a blast, despite being on the wrong side of the world.

2:50PM Oh look, it's GERARD WAY (KKKK), who, despite the heat, is rocking a very sharp suit. Where on the ticket does it say Soundwave is a formal affair?

3:10PM Gerard tells the crowd he got motion sick on the way to the venue and puked over his bandmates. "Luckily I hadn't eaten breakfast, so it was just water," he offers. Bet your band don't feel that lucky, mate.

3:16PM "For those of you who don't know, my socks are kinda a big deal," announces Gerard. As are songs like Millions and Action Cat, which have just been performed with thrilling intensity.

4:22PM "Titties!" STEEL PANTHER (KKKK) have arrived and, after a quick backstage goof with Gerard Way, are doing their best to lower the tone to somewhere below the border of Antarctica.

4:26PM Now they're talking about New Zealanders and sheep. Sweet Lord…

4:28PM The smut abates as they finally get 'round to playing a song. It's called, erm, Asian Hooker.

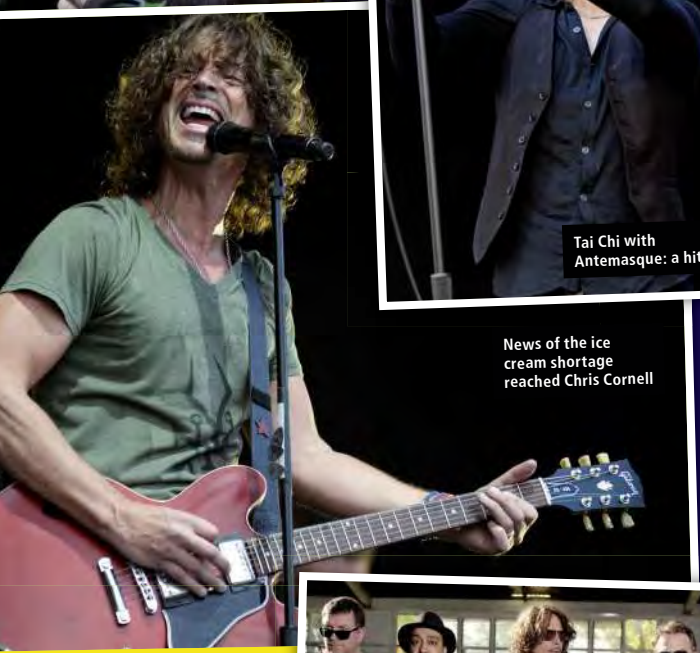
5:28PM Soundwave's average hair volume increases by approximately 57.2 per cent, as ANTEMASQUE (KKK) appear. The ex-At The Drive-In blokes' new, more garage-y fuzz is far more

Michael Starr's audition for Swan Lake: don't call them, mate

Anger erupted as the queue for the dunny entered its ninth hour

Randy Blythe's hair had yet to recover from the effects of being Down Under

Tai Chi with Antemasque: a hit



News of the ice cream shortage reached Chris Cornell

Soundgarden's sunglasses rider came up short

Mike Patton: always ready to referee a snooker championship

FNM's washing powder was *really* powerful

FAITH NO MORE

KKKKK

THEY'RE BAAAAAACK! REUNITED LEGENDS PROVIDE THE SHOW OF THE DAY

DESPITE THE 30-degree heat, you'd be forgiven for thinking a snowstorm had hit Faith No More. Clad completely in white – the backdrop, the amps, even the roadies – the only splash of colour comes from the flowers that line the stage. At a festival where the predominant colour is black, trust Faith No More – who have gleefully gone against the grain for three decades – to do the opposite. That they open their set with a new song, Motherfucker, rather than an old favourite further proves the band's disdain for playing it safe.

There's plenty of subversive hits to be had, however. From Epic to closer We Care A Lot, the only thing more staggering than FNM's songs is the vigour with which they perform. While some acts reform and are clearly just a shadow of their former selves, Faith No More have picked up exactly where they left off when they split in 1998. This much is evident in the other new song they play this evening, Superhero, a track bubbling with malevolence and a promise of magic from their forthcoming Sol Invictus album. Set of the day, hands down.

5 MINUTES WITH... BILLY GOULD

(FAITH NO MORE, *BASS*)

YOU'RE BACK! HOW DOES IT FEEL, SIR?

"We're good! We only finished the album, like, 10 days ago. We just mastered it, and then we got on a plane and came here. It's very, very fresh."

THERE'S A LOT OF '90S BANDS HERE. WHY DO YOU THINK PEOPLE WANT MUSIC FROM THEN STILL?

"My cynical response? I remember back in the '90s, the '70s were cool and everything was coming back. The people who were the kids back then are adults and are kind of revisiting their youth. I don't really see our intention to accommodate those people."

SO, WHO ARE YOU WRITING FOR, THEN?

"Only for ourselves. We never really fit in anyway!"

suited to a sunny eve than the angular hardcore of old, even if they go on a bit.

6:20PM Still, they're way more invigorating than **INCUBUS** (**KK**), whose mid-set lull reduces the vibe in the main stadium to zero, especially during a turgid In The Company Of Wolves. All together now, everyone, "Zzzzzzzzzzz."

7:28PM Hold on to your flux capacitors, we've been transported back in time to the 1990s, where right now **SOUNDGARDEN** (**KKKK**) are playing My Wave. And it sounds absolutely bloody fantastic.

7:47PM Not only does vocalist Chris Cornell sound awesome, but Like Suicide and Fell On Black Days prove age has not wearied 1994's classic Superunknown.

9:04PM "Walk with me in Heeeeellllll," screeches **LAMB OF GOD** (**KKKK**) frontbear Randy Blythe. Well, seeing as you asked so nicely…

9:15PM A crowd chant follows Set To Fail: "Randy! Randy!"

9:16PM Randy confirms that he is indeed there, and that the crowd have his name correct, by shouting at them.

9:17PM "Sydney is bringing it tonight!" roars Randy. Then Lamb Of God bring it, ripping through a titanic Hourglass.

10:00PM Lamb Of God exit, leaving a thousand fresh bruises and several cases of whiplash in their wake. And that's day one: we're knackered, hurt and ready for bed. Same time tomorrow, then?

SOUNDWAVE XV

Manson really needed to learn where his eyebrows ended

We always said Jenna bent over backwards for her fans…

Whatever's in that bottle, we wouldn't have any more of it

Alex had been in M. Shadows' wardrobe again

SUNDAY

ALL TIME LOW

KKKK

NATURE TURNS NASTY ON THE BALTIMORE POP-PUNK HEROES

YOU HAVE to feel a little sorry for All Time Low. Several hours ago, guitarist Jack Barakat sat backstage explaining how much it meant to the band to finally be on the main stage at Soundwave. But when, two songs into their set, the heavens open, it marks the beginning of the end for the Baltimore pop-punkers. Three songs later, the stage is shut down for safety reasons, as gale-force winds batter the site and the rain becomes torrential. At first, the quartet revel in the rain – when opener Lost In Stereo comes to an end, Jack shouts, "You guys are gonna get so fucking wet! This is gonna get awesome soon!" Which makes Alex Gaskarth's announcement soon after that the band have to leave the stage all the more heartbreaking. It's what happens next, though, that makes them heroes of the day. After Alex tries mopping the stage himself, he returns to tell the crowd the band's gear is "fucked" and they can't continue, before leading the audience through an a cappella version of Weightless and Queen's We Will Rock You. For snatching victory from the jaws of defeat, we salute you.

Christ, it rains some funny stuff in Aus, doesn't it?

5 MINUTES WITH… JACK BARAKAT

(ALL TIME LOW, *GUITAR*)

YOU GOT HIT BY THE WEATHER. YOU MUST BE FEELING PRETTY BUMMED?

"Yeah, but I think we rescued it. It always sucks when something goes wrong like that, but we did something we'd never have done normally, which was cool."

SOUNDWAVE IS A PRETTY METAL BILL THIS YEAR – DID YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THAT?

"Whenever we get an offer from Soundwave, we just take it. We love Soundwave so much, so when we're accepting it we don't even know who's on it. But once I did find out, I was a little worried we were playing so close to Manson and Slipknot, because I just didn't know if their fans would be accepting of our music. But we haven't had any issues yet, which is nice."

WHEN SOUNDWAVE IS OVER, WHAT ONE MEMORY DO YOU THINK YOU'LL TAKE FROM IT?

"We've been doing Soundwave so many years – this is our fourth time – and we've literally been on every stage now. And we've been watching all the bands on the main stage all these years – blink, Incubus, Green Day – and now we're finally there, so this is crazy, to finally have made it to this stage."

Slash: buy yourself a guitar strap, mate

Nice hat, Austi… Oh

SUNDAY

THE BEST OF THE REST

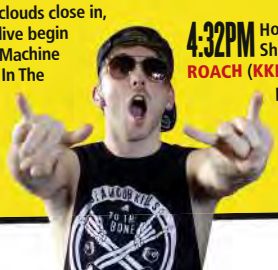
1:41PM Day two kicks off! And TWIN ATLANTIC (KKKK) guitarist Barry McKenna has opted for a thick flannel shirt for his band's killer opening set. Seems sensible – it's only 36 degrees. Not such good news for the punter walking around in a Slipknot boiler suit and mask.

2:20PM "Sydney, make some fucking noise!" No, it's not Twin Atlantic frontman Sam McTrusty – it's only bloody Max Cavalera getting ready to lead supergroup KILLER BE KILLED (KKKK) through their sixth-ever show.

2:21PM Set Fire To Your Flag sounds like 1,000 cats being shredded by guitar strings and beaten by thunderous drums – it's a surprisingly glorious noise.

3:00PM Jenna McDougall from TONIGHT ALIVE (KKKK) seems happy. "We are home!" she declares. For the past 20 minutes, the Sydney pop-punkers have been playing with the joy of a band that's spent their entire lives dreaming of playing the main stage of Soundwave in their hometown.

3:26PM As storm clouds close in, Tonight Alive begin a Rage Against The Machine medley with Killing In The Name. They must have paid their special effects guy a fortune for that.



3:52PM Winds and torrential rain temporarily shut the main stages. On the upside, it's no longer hotter than Satan's sauna. All Time Low raise a devil horn and attempt to soldier on.

4:32PM However, Jacoby Shaddix from PAPA ROACH (KKK) has no such problems. His horns seems to ward off some of the wet, and he looks like the world's happiest toddler while he's doing it.

5:39PM In what is surely a world first, the appearance of MARILYN MANSON (KKK) brings the sun out.

5:49PM "I made it rain," confesses Manson after a titanic Deep Six. All Time Low would like a word, mate.

5:56PM Manson smashes a beer bottle onstage and cuts himself with it. Not big, not clever.

Rob Halford packed his summer wardrobe, clearly

Sam McTrusty, the possessor of the world's stickiest earwax

Myles, do you even lift, bro?

The world's worst dinosaur impersonator in action

Seriously, did *nobody* bring a guitar strap?

SLIPKNOT

KKKK

PLENTY OF PUNCH, BUT NOT QUITE A KNOCKOUT BLOW

ON THE dot of 8:20, the eyes of the giant devil figure hovering over Slipknot's stage start to glow an eerie purple. Then the opening strains of XIX creak into morbid life, and the roar that goes up from the audience isn't so much "Let's party", as "Let's go to war". The last time Slipknot headlined Soundwave was in 2012, when they were still a band in mourning – Paul Gray's empty suit hung where he would once have stood, a tribute to their fallen comrade. Tonight, though, is a different story – this is the final show of a triumphant, globe-straddling 10-week run, and the sense is very much of an act mustering everything they can for one last bilious purge. It's a pity, then, that the sound is so poor that The Heretic Anthem, Eyeless and Sarcastrophe merge into one indistinguishable mush. Not that this dampens the crowd, who are so boisterous the show needs to be stopped for 10 minutes so that the barrier in front of the stage can be repaired. It's a killer ending from the 'Knot, if not quite the stone-cold knockout blow it could have been.

5 MINUTES WITH... COREY TAYLOR

(SLIPKNOT, *VOCALS*)

HAVE YOU BEEN WATCHING MANY BANDS THIS YEAR?

"Yesterday was the only chance I got to see anyone. I got to see Manson's set for a bit, saw All Time Low, got to go and see Judas Priest, and I get to see the end of Slash's set every night, 'cause we go on [the stage] next door."

HOW ARE THINGS GELLING WITH THE NEW MEMBERS?

"It's been really good. These guys are so good and were fans to begin with, so there's a whole energy that comes out of that where you get excited about your music again. From the first show there was a different energy and everything just felt really tight and good."

WHAT'S YOUR PRESHOW ROUTINE FOR THIS GIG?

"About an hour before the show we start the process – and it is a fucking *process*. Putting that mask on, man, you know there's no getting out of it. Something clicks and you go from civilian mode to Slipknot mode and it's fuckin' BOOM!"

Corey's sunburn was really starting to show

6:18PM "Rob Halford told us he loved our Irresistible video!" exclaims Fall Out Boy guitarist Joe Trohman backstage.

6:21PM Rob pulls himself away from his FOB videos to kick it with **JUDAS PRIEST** (**KKKK**).

7:11PM "When we first started making metal," he announces, "we always wanted to be a heavy metal band and that's pretty much where we stuck." For that we thank you, sir.

7:18PM Beyond The Realms Of Death ends. Everyone wishes it hadn't. Until, that is, Priest play…

7:19PM …Jawbreaker!

7:27PM On a side stage, **OF MICE & MEN** (**KKK**) indulge in their first breakdown of the night during Public Service Announcement.

7:32PM "Are you having a good time, Soundwave?" asks Austin Carlile. "Show me!"

7:33PM The entire place goes bonkers for new song Broken Generation. That'll show him.

7:44PM **SLASH** (**KKKK**) leads his Conspirators through a blistering World On Fire. Which is great, but not as great as…

7:56PM …The intro to Sweet Child O' Mine. Lick-tacular.

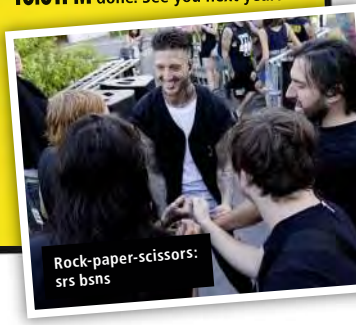
8:09PM Paradise City sends the crowd air-guitar mad.

9:22PM Oh look, Billy Corgan's throttling his guitar while **SMASHING PUMPKINS** (**KKKK**) thunder their way through United States. Awesome!

9:34PM But sod that, Billy's bashing out Bullet With Butterfly Wings and Heavy Metal Machine!

9:59PM Billy's final powerchord rings out, almost at the same time as Slipknot's. Perfect timing there, bald bloke!

10:01PM And just like that, we're done. See you next year!


Rock-paper-scissors: srs bsns

REVIEWS

RATING RECORDS WHILE YOU SLEEP

KKKKK = CLASSIC **KKKK** = EXCELLENT
KKK = GOOD **KK** = AVERAGE **K** = POOR

WHILE SHE SLEEPS

BRAINWASHED

(SEARCH AND DESTROY)

KKKKK

BEHOLD – THE RETURN OF THE LIVING SHRED!

IF YOU spend long enough hanging around the pubs and clubs of Doncaster, the sort of spit-and-sawdust South Yorkshire dives from which While She Sleeps emerged, you'll most likely hear the story of one Alick Jeffrey. Born in 1939 in Rawmarsh – a Rotherham pit village located roughly equidistant between Doncaster and Sheffield, the two principal poles of While She Sleeps' formation – Jeffrey went on to be Doncaster Rovers' greatest-ever footballer. Perhaps the nation's best, potentially.

Alick made his debut at a prodigious 15 years old. The great wing-wizard Sir Stanley Matthews commented, "He bears the stamp of genius." Sir Matt Busby, the man who built Manchester United into the world's most famous club, told young Alick on the eve of an England U23 game against France, "In time, I will come for you." Alick broke his leg during that very match. A year later, he'd retired. Washed up. Over. Either out of the game, or attempting short-lived comebacks in football outposts like Skegness or Sydney. Today, men in Doncaster pubs ask, "Was Alick Jeffrey really that good?" not, "Alick Jeffrey, what a player he was."

WHEN JEFFREY'S countymen While She Sleeps poked their head above the underground parapet with their first full-length album, This Is The Six, in 2012, they were rewarded with 5Ks, a slot on the Kerrang! Tour, and the award for Best British Newcomer at that year's Kerrang! Awards. They were truly special. Live and on record they took on the hybrid form of a punk and metal unification. They were too truly pummelling to really suit the classification of metalcore, each song on the aforementioned record resembling a form of musical battering ram. Huge choruses battered against the listener's ears until the hooks broke through walls made of inner ear and gristle, and in frontman – note, *not singer* – Loz Taylor, sported a totem of heavy, heavy cool. They were, unquestionably, The Next Big Thing.

And then Loz Taylor's throat gave up. Washed up. Over…

By the band's own admission, there were times where they questioned whether album two would ever come to exist. There were times, during that long lay-off, cancelled gigs and all, enforced by Loz' multiple throat surgeries, going cold turkey from the acclaim, when they surely questioned whether they, too, might become a question rather than a statement…

HERE'S A statement for you: Brainwashed is an incredible return to action. From the off, New World Torture is pure audio violence, like Slipknot, only truly, existentially bummed. Freedom Of Lies, for instance, is like one of those great, snotty metal songs Bring Me The Horizon were so adept at spewing out in the days before they bought a keyboard. Our Legacy is a bridge to the preceding album, suspended by a truly gargantuan hook and a major-league chorus. Four Walls, meanwhile – incidentally the album's best song – builds and builds upon a gang vocal, before punctuating the tune with an uppercut of pure, modern metal sass.

Torment proves that none of what made Loz Taylor's vocal special – a riled bear vomiting out wasps – was left on the operating table. Life In Tension takes things up a gear further, with hooks that could reel in Jaws, while Trophies Of Violence draws further comparisons with Slipknot – Slipknot who drink bitter, perhaps – the song dragging itself towards a breakdown that will leave noses broken. Then, on the home straight, the guitars of No Sides, No Enemies spiral like H-bombs dropping from the sky, beautiful but beastly, while the low-slung sludge metal of Method In Madness and closer Modern Minds – the latter's refrain of '*Don't give up, give up, give up on yourself*' proving something of a modus operandi for the entire record – both wrap things up, less with a knot, than a garotte.

Rest assured, men will talk about Doncaster's While She Sleeps in pubs one day, just like they talk about Jeffrey. But there will be no questions, only statements. And they will talk about their greatness.

DOWNLOAD: New World Torture, Four Walls.
FOR FANS OF: Slipknot, Bring Me The Horizon, Cancer Bats, Bury Tomorrow.

JAMES MCMAHON

THE INSIDER
TALES FROM THE STUDIO...

LOZ TAYLOR
(VOCALS)

SO, LOZ, WHAT'S WITH THE TITLE, BRAINWASHED?
"It's to do with how heavily things are marketed and forced on you through TV and advertising. You don't notice it so much when you're in a touring bubble, because everything's a bit weird when you're on tour all the time and real-life stuff has kind of a hard time getting to you sometimes. But in day-to-day life, that stuff comes at you constantly, and it really is all the time. It's companies telling you that you *want* stuff, that you *need* stuff, and how you should do things. That stuck in my mind a lot while I was writing lyrics for the album."

HAVING HAD YOUR VOICE ISSUES, DID YOU FEEL YOU HAD ANYTHING TO PROVE?
"A little bit – and the thing is, I actually recorded it with a polyp still in my throat! But we kept that kind of quiet from everyone. I'm really happy with the way the album came out, though. In some parts it sounds like I'm gargling razor blades – which is really good for the style of music we're making, I think!"

HAVE YOU GOT ANY GUESTS ON THE RECORD?
"Yeah, While She Sleeps' original singer, Jordan Widdowson, which is really cool! There was a breakdown from an early song that he sang over, and we thought it was too good not to give it a chance to be heard by more people, so we worked it into one of the new songs, and he totally killed it."

INTERVIEW: DAN SLESSOR

ALIEN ANT FARM
ALWAYS AND FOREVER
(PLEDGEMUSIC)

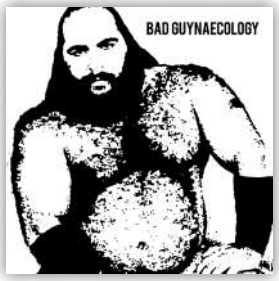
KKK

THEY'RE BACK! AND THEY'RE NOT BAD...

NINE YEARS since their last album (2006's Up In The Attic, AKA The Album You Never Heard Or Knew Existed), and minus two classic ingredients (a title punning the word "Ant", and gurning bassist Tye Zamora, AKA The World's Most Annoying Musician), you might be wondering how much of an appetite there is for a new Alien Ant Farm album. Well, judging by the fact this is a fan-funded offering, and the frenzied response to Dryden Mitchell and co's forthcoming tour with fellow nu-metal also-rans Hoobastank and P.O.D., it seems that, musically speaking, people still want Ants in their pants. Thankfully, this resulting album has more moments of mojo-stoking magic (Yellow Pages, Let Em Know) than pAnts mawkishness (Burning). There's nothing on the album that's going to suddenly turn them into queen bees again, but Alien Ant Farm here prove themselves to be an enterprise running on more than just the fumes of nostalgia.

DOWNLOAD: Yellow Pages, Let Em Know.
FOR FANS OF: Incubus, Hoobastank, Deftones.

JAMES HICKIE



BAD GUYS
BAD GUYNAECOLOGY
(RIOT SEASON)

KKKK

HAIRY, SWEATY ROCK'N'ROLL FROM COCKNEY HARD-NUTS

SOMETIMES YOU look at an album cover and just *know* what the music is going to sound like. Case in point: Bad Guynaecology, the second album from East End bruisers Bad Guys. It's fat, dirty, hairy, smelly, unashamed – just like the lovely chap gracing its sleeve. If the residents of Albert Square had their own revolution and the Queen Vic became a Speakers' Corner for bands, songs like Crime and Prostitutes (Are Making Love In My Garden) would be exactly the kind of outlaw fuzz rock you'd be hoping to hear. The cockney-geezer vocals are rib-tickling indeed, but, rest assured, those sludgy riffs will be quick to wipe the smile off your face. Who knew being bad guys could be so good?

DOWNLOAD: Crime.
FOR FANS OF: Black Sabbath, The Sword, Mike Patton.

AMIT SHARMA

SMASH INTO PIECES
THE APOCALYPSE DJ
(GAIN/SONY)

KK

SWEDISH ROCKERS PROVE LESS THAN SMASHING

THE ROUTE that Smash Into Pieces took to get their country's attention is rather telling. Their first steps weren't spent on tours of small venues, but on a nationally televised talent show. And as semi-finalists on Sweden's Got Talent, do you suppose they smuggled righteous underground sounds onto their nation's goggleboxes? Or do you think they simply peddled unimaginative lowest common denominator hard rock for people who'll always prefer Nickelback to Nirvana? The Apocalypse DJ provides the predictable answer. Turns out, contrary to their monicker, Smash Into Pieces are responsible for music so limp it couldn't fight its way out of a paper bag.

DOWNLOAD: My Cocaine.
FOR FANS OF: Nickelback, Shinedown, Hinder.

OLLY THOMAS

RANGER
WHERE EVIL DWELLS
(SPINEFARM)

KKK

FINNISH SPEEDSTERS SHRED UP THE FAST LANE

ANALOGUE RECORDING? Whiplash riffage? A skyscraping vocal register seemingly nicked off some unhinged cartoon megalomaniac? You won't believe it's not '80s thrash! Nonetheless, Ranger still manage to distance themselves from Technicolor genre revivalists like Gama Bomb and Municipal Waste by virtue of a blinkered fixation on ear-melting speed, best heard on the warp-drive bombast of Dead Zone or Storm Of Power's virtuoso pomposity. Even the 10-minute title-track only briefly lumbers between bursts of frenetic brilliance. And so what if the shamelessly throwback sensibility leaves Where Evil Dwells reeking of cheddar? The damn thing never slows down long enough for you to catch a whiff.

DOWNLOAD: Dead Zone.
FOR FANS OF: Iron Maiden, Judas Priest, Evile.

SAM LAW

THE KERRANG! STEREO

THE 10 NEW ROCK TRACKS MELTING OUR EARS!

1 SUPERHERO
FAITH NO MORE
JUST FUCKIN' HURRY UP AND RELEASE THE ALBUM!

2 FIND ME
TYLER CARTER
An ultra-catchy ode to hide-and-seek from old Ty there.

3 ALL TONGUES TOWARD LEVIATHAN
"Dark, shady and abyss-deep noise from the king of U.S. black metal."
NICK RUSKELL, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

4 SPEAKING IN TONGUES
YOUNG GUNS
Imagine the sing-alongs if Gustav *really* sang in tongues.

5 LOYALTY
KILLSWITCH ENGAGE
Brace yourselves, Game Of Thrones: Mixtape is coming.

6 AND SO I WATCH YOU FROM AFAR
THE FADER
"And So I Listen To This Over And Over And Over Again."
SAM COARE, FEATURES EDITOR

7 GLORYHOLE
THE LOUNGE KITTENS
And you thought Steel Panther's version was daft…

8 KEEP SWINGING
BLITZ KIDS
Boxing? Sex-swapping? Either way, we like this.

9 NACHTHEXEN
MAMMOTH WIZARD WEED BASTARD
"A 30-minute monster from doom's best-named band."
JOHN LONGBOTTOM, NEWS/ONLINE EDITOR

10 MYSTIC DEATH
GALLOWS
More like 'Massive Fist Death'. Total punk trouble.

BLUES PILLS

BLUES PILLS LIVE
(NUCLEAR BLAST)

KKKK

K! FRESH BLOOD GROOVERS DO THEIR RETRO THING, LIVE

BLISS. NOT just the title of the third track on this live album, but a summation of this masterful gig, recorded without frills, from the best young blues rock band on Earth. You hear it all – the crowd's whistles and whoops in the quiet sections, the odd crackle, and singer Elin Larsson so caught up in this magic that she almost forgets where the mic is. Hell, if you close your eyes, you're basically at the gig. You could bribe mates to stand around you holding smartphones in the air like a bunch of braindead automatons, but there's really no need – live albums get no better than Blues Pills on fire.

DOWNLOAD: Bliss.
FOR FANS OF: Rival Sons, Black Sabbath, Halestorm.

STEVE BEEBEE

DØDHEIMSGARD

A UMBRA OMEGA
(PEACEVILLE)

KKK

NORWEGIAN NUTTERS SERVE UP HAM WITH THEIR METAL

A LOT of bands have taken black metal roots and twisted them into fertile new ground, but few have strayed quite so far from the tree as Dødheimsgard. The metallic elements exist here in the viscous guitars and hyperspeed drums that sound like a school of haddock having a collective fit in a shoebox, but over the course of their 15-minute compositions, they also stray into lounge-lizard jazz, prog-rock excess and discordant noise. Add an overblown performance from returning vocalist Aldrahn that's more evil thespian ham than singing in any traditional sense, and you have one bewildering headfuck of an album.

DOWNLOAD: Blue Moon Duel.
FOR FANS OF: Ihsahn, Merzbow.

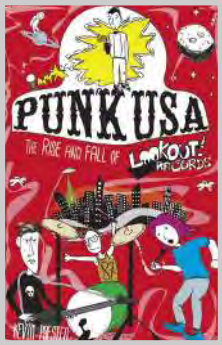
PAUL TRAVERS

PUNK USA: THE RISE AND FALL OF LOOKOUT! RECORDS

KEVIN PRESTED
(MICROCOSM)

KKKK

A BRILLIANT LOOK AT U.S. PUNK'S MOST IMPORTANT LABEL. THEY GAVE US GREEN DAY, DON'TCHAKNOW…

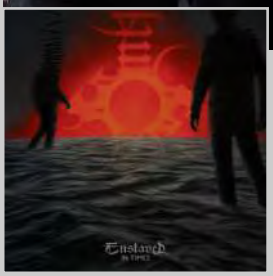


YOU CAN thank California's Lookout! Records for discovering a snotty-nosed bunch of oiks called Green Day. It was the spit'n'sawdust independent imprint that put out the Berkeley trio's first EP, 1,000 Hours, after label owner Larry Livermore saw them at a gig and signed them up. Now just imagine for a second a Back To The Future-esque alternate reality where, for some reason, that didn't happen, and the subsequent chain of events leading to Green Day becoming the world's biggest punk band kinked, winding up with Billie Joe Armstrong becoming a chef. Not great, is it?

But, as we discover in this tell-all tale, it wasn't just in Lookout!'s own future success stories that made it such an important label. They almost single-handedly shaped the sound of American punk for a generation of blink-182s and New Found Glorys to follow, by putting out vital, early pop-punk stuff by bands like The Mr. T Experience, Crimpshrine and Operation Ivy. You know, that band Green Day cover and invite fans onstage to play. Oh, and who also gave us a young Tim Armstrong, who would go on to form the squillion-selling Rancid.

So yeah, there were a lot of seeds sown from a California bedroom. And here's an inspiring, occasionally funny look at how one label changed punk forever, almost entirely by accident. It also offers an answer as to why Lookout!'s not there any more (it was a shit show, basically). One rock history book that's well worth a Lookin!.

NICK RUSKELL



ENSLAVED

IN TIMES
(NUCLEAR BLAST)

KKKK

YET ANOTHER DOSE OF PERFECTION FROM BLACK METAL'S PROGGIEST BAND

THERE'S BLACK metal, progressive black metal, weirdo black metal, Viking black metal… But there's only one Enslaved, who are all and none of the above. Now at a point in their career where they can almost *expect* a Norwegian Grammy for whatever they release, the progressive black metallers find themselves with plenty of creative wind in their Viking ship sails. Eight-minute opener Thurisaz Dreaming is a thundering ode to an ancient rune with evil magic, led by the contrasting blood-curdling snarls

OPIUM LORD

THE CALENDRICAL CYCLE: EYE OF EARTH
(CANDLELIGHT)

KKKK

BIRMINGHAM SPEWS UP A NEW SET OF DOOM LORDS

CHRIST, THIS is bleak. The members of Opium Lord are probably thoroughly nice chaps, but the music they create is more twisted than Satan's own corkscrew. Hailing from Birmingham, this takes the doom blueprint drawn up by Black Sabbath and drags it to its ugliest conclusion. There are classic riffs aplenty, but they have a knack of twisting them into unique shapes, and it's all smeared in a coating of sludge that stinks more of rank urban canals than the Louisiana swamps swum by Down and their ilk. This cycle isn't a pleasant ride, but it is a hugely impressive debut.

DOWNLOAD: Krocodil.
FOR FANS OF: Iron Monkey, Electric Wizard, Eyehategod.

PAUL TRAVERS

BEDEMON

CHILD OF DARKNESS: FROM THE ORIGINAL MASTER TAPES
(RELAPSE)

KK

A POOR SHOWING FOR A RARE METAL RELIC

BEDEMON WERE one of those bands who were around at the same time as Sabbath broke out, but never managed to break out of the garage themselves. Although, as doom-heads will know, they later morphed into Pentagram, who (eventually) got their props after, ooh, 30-odd years. Anyway, these recordings from the '70s are chock-full of the sort of riffs that did Tony Iommi so well, with Bobby Liebling's tortured wail making him sound like a U.S. Ozzy. Sadly, the sound is shit, and renders this collection almost unlistenable. Which is a shame, as this is one (Be)demon you'd want to be haunted by.

DOWNLOAD: Child Of Darkness.
FOR FANS OF: Black Sabbath, Uncle Acid & The Deadbeats.

NICK RUSKELL

of singer/bassist Grutle Kjellson and clean vocals of keyboardist Herbrand Larsen. As the album unfolds, the progressive meanderings stretch out into a blue moon of watery reflections that feel as vivid as the Northern Lights themselves. If you want to hear what will inevitably be one of *the* metal albums of this year, look no further than In Times.
DOWNLOAD: Thurisaz Dreaming, One Thousand Years Of Rain.
FOR FANS OF: Opeth, Emperor, Pink Floyd.
AMIT SHARMA

BROADSIDE
OLD BONES
(VICTORY)
KKK
U.S. PUNKS DELIVER ZERO SURPRISE ATTACKS HERE

TO BE broadsided is to be fired at by all the guns on one side of a warship at the same time. It's an awesome display of power, and one that lets the recipient know they've been spoken to. Which isn't what you can say about the band of the same name. There's precious little in the way of rage or kick-in-the-nuts energy here, but what there is is a very good copy of the sort of thing that made Fall Out Boy popular a decade ago. A Better Way could be called The Same Way for all the ideas of its own going on, but somewhere in here is a seed that could grow into something decent. It just won't broadside you yet.
DOWNLOAD: A Better Way.
FOR FANS OF: Fall Out Boy, The Wonder Years, The Story So Far.
NICK RUSKELL

KLASSIC ALBUM

MASTODON
BLOOD MOUNTAIN
(WARNER BROS, 2006)

HAVING MADE jaws hit the floor with Remission (2002) and its epic successor Leviathan (2004), it was obvious Mastodon were simply too good to stay an underground concern. And as the world got wind of their complex-but-gritty prog-metal thunder, so did the big-boy labels. Would they get away with writing another involved concept album – about a man searching for a crystal skull and having a lycanthropic episode on the way – on a major? Absolutely, guv. From the sledgehammer thrash of The Wolf Is Loose to the sublime melodies'n'muscle of This Mortal Soil, Blood Mountain is a classic. And one that put Mastodon in the ears of non-metal-listening masses, proving the world loves a bit of weathered weirdness every now and then.

WAS THERE A FEELING THIS ALBUM WAS A LAUNCH PAD FOR MASTODON?
BILL KELLIHER (*VOCALS/GUITAR*): "To begin with, we weren't sure how things were going to work. It was a new experience having an A&R guy come down and be in the studio while we were working, but he assured us the label wanted to get behind what we were already doing rather than influence us. That took away any pressure."

WERE THERE ANY EUREKA MOMENTS IN THE STUDIO?
"I think perhaps the most magical moment came one day in the kitchenette that we hung out in while someone else was tracking. I came up with an intro for This Mortal Soil, just totally off the cuff. I had this part, showed it to Brann [Dailor, drums/vocals] and he added his part, and suddenly it just came to life. It took the whole song to a different place."

"WE PLAYED AN INTRO ON BORROWED OIL DRUMS!"
BILL KELLIHER

IS IT TRUE THAT BRANN BORROWED SOME 50 GALLON INDUSTRIAL DRUMS FROM A HOMELESS MAN?
"I don't know if he was homeless, but he was shady. And we didn't borrow, we 'hired'! Seattle, where we recorded, is a port city, and there are barrels all over the place. Brann had an idea to pound barrels for the intro to Crystal Skull. We were driving to the studio one day and saw some. This random guy claimed they were his, so we paid him. But when we returned them, he wasn't there! I guess everyone benefited from it, though!"

HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW IT'S BEING RERELEASED ON VINYL?
"I'm proud of it, and I've been trying to press the guys to bring a couple of the songs back into our sets. It's a weird record – there's some really strange ideas on there, but we made it work. I can't say it felt like it 'broke' us or anything like that, but it was a step on the way, and a very *good* step!"

HEAR IT IN FULL!
KERRANG! RADIO PLAY THE WHOLE ALBUM AT 10PM, MARCH 12!

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

GIGS

NO LAST RESORTS!

PAPA ROACH

OUR FAVE NU-METAL NASTIES ARE READY TO INFEST THE UK!

HEY, JACOBY! LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING BACK TO THE UK?
JACOBY SHADDIX (*VOCALS*): "Oh, so much! We've been on tour in the States and we enjoy it here, but UK crowds are a cut above, man. Every time we come over it's fantastic, and it's looking like being a sold-out tour, so… get your tickets *now*, fool!"

DONE AND DONE. SO, WHAT'S BEEN YOUR GREATEST SHOW HERE?
"Oh, man, there have been so many memorable shows, but I would say the first time we headlined Brixton Academy. I just couldn't believe we were doing it. I mean, I have a love for that place so strong that I named my youngest son Brixton. There's just something special there."

YOUR SON SHOULD BE THANKFUL YOU NEVER PLAYED SHITTERTON IN DORSET. HOW DO YOU KILL TIME ON THE ROAD NOW YOU'RE SOBER?
"You get up, get some food in you, do interviews, go do a meet-and-greet, sound check, watch the opening band, then play. I've also got my clothing line called Lovers Are Lunatics that I'm putting a lot of time into promoting. I don't stress about not drinking any more because I'm having fun. I feel a lot more focused and creative. I still go out with the guys, I just don't put that stuff down my neck. When you've got 10 dudes on a tour bus, there's no shortage of laughs, even sober!"

WORDS: PAUL TRAVERS PHOTO: PAUL HARRIES

SUPPORT:
COLDRAIN, THE ONE HUNDRED

DATES: O2 Guildhall Southampton March 11, London Camden Roundhouse 12, Glasgow Barrowland 14, Manchester Academy 15, O2 Academy Birmingham 17, Nottingham Rock City 18, Dublin Academy 20, Belfast Limelight 21.

TICKETS AND INFO FOR ALL THESE GIGS ARE AVAILABLE FROM:
ALOUD.COM
buy your tickets from www.aloud.com

KERRANG! DAY
MARCH 11

GLASGOW: Architects

BRIDGEWATER ALLUSONDRUGS (Tiki Beach Bar)
BRISTOL CORROSION OF CONFORMITY, HANG THE BASTARD (Bierkeller)
CAMBRIDGE EUROPE, BLACK STAR RIDERS (Corn Exchange)
EVESHAM THE QUIREBOYS (Iron Road Rock Bar)
GLASGOW SWINGIN' UTTERS, TOY GUITAR (Audio)
GLASGOW ARCHITECTS, EVERY TIME I DIE, BLESSTHEFALL, COUNTERPARTS (O2 ABC Glasgow)
LONDON THE AFTERPARTY, BEYOND RECALL (Garage, Highbury)
LONDON BLEACH BLOOD, THE KENNETHS (Underbelly, Hoxton)
LONDON FOZZY, THE DIRTY YOUTH (Underworld, Camden)
MANCHESTER WEDNESDAY 13 (Club Academy)
NORWICH RED CITY RADIO, PEARS (Owl Sanctuary)
SOUTHAMPTON PAPA ROACH, COLDRAIN, THE ONE HUNDRED (O2 Guildhall Southampton)
WOLVERHAMPTON ROYAL BLOOD, MINI MANSIONS (Civic Hall)
YORK THE ANSWER (Fibbers)

THURSDAY
MARCH 12

BIRMINGHAM ARCHITECTS, EVERY TIME I DIE, BLESSTHEFALL, COUNTERPARTS (Institute)
BIRMINGHAM ROOM 94, SYMMETRY (O2 Academy2 Birmingham)
BRISTOL SWINGIN' UTTERS, TOY GUITAR (Fleece)
BRISTOL FOZZY, THE DIRTY YOUTH (Marble Factory)
CARDIFF THE QEMISTS, THE ALGORITHM (Clwb Ifor Bach)
COLCHESTER CORROSION OF CONFORMITY, HANG THE BASTARD (Arts Centre)
EXETER THE ANSWER (Lemon Grove)
FALMOUTH FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND, GRADER, SVALBARD (Pavilion)
GLASGOW LONELY THE BRAVE (King Tut's)
HUDDERSFIELD JON GOMM (Bar 122)
LEEDS THUNDER (First Direct Arena)
LONDON NIGHT RANGER (O2 Academy Islington)
LONDON PAPA ROACH, COLDRAIN, THE ONE HUNDRED (Roundhouse, Camden)

WEDNESDAY 13

It's 100 per cent fact that Wednesday 13 loves his horror movies – the gorier, the better. But just how would he fare were he to find himself stuck in three different terrifying scenarios?

I (DIDN'T) SURVIVE A ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE
"When I was a kid, I thought the zombie apocalypse would be really cool, but now I think I actually wouldn't want to survive. I'd rather just be eaten! I'd say the zombies should go eat a bucket of KFC and wash it down with a few mouthfuls of me! I think I'd make an excellent zombie, I've been singing about them for 20-something years, so I think I have a pretty good affinity with the undead at this point!"

TIME TO FACE THE MUSIC
"Every time I watch a Friday The 13th or Halloween movie, I want to see how they would handle having a piano dropped on them. It'd be like an old-school Bugs Bunny cartoon! Though, knowing my luck, I'd end up being strangled with a piano wire…"

THE DEVIL IN I
"See, I feel like I'm already possessed by a demon, so that would just be another day for me. Been there, done that, still doing it! If another tried to get in there it would have a pretty hard time, and it wouldn't be long before it said, 'Fuck this!' and went looking for someone else."

SUPPORT:
SNOW WHITE'S POISON BITE (11 – 13), RIVAL STATE (14 – 18)

DATES: Manchester Club Academy March 11, Newcastle Think Tank? 12, Glasgow Cathouse 13, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 14, Bristol Marble Factory 15, Norwich Waterfront 17, Cardiff Globe 18.

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

LONDON RED CITY RADIO, PEARS (Windmill, Brixton)
MANCHESTER YELLOWCARD, LESS THAN JAKE, CHUNK! NO, CAPTAIN CHUNK! (Academy)
MANCHESTER PLACEBO, THE MIRROR TRAP (O2 Apollo Manchester)
NEWCASTLE THE AFTERPARTY, BEYOND RECALL (Globe)
NEWCASTLE WEDNESDAY 13 (Think Tank?)
SOUTHAMPTON HALESTORM, NOTHING MORE, WILSON (O2 Guildhall Southampton)
SWANSEA THE QUIREBOYS (Static Rock Bar)
WOLVERHAMPTON STEEL PANTHER, SKINDRED, THE LOUNGE KITTENS (Civic Hall)
YORK PURPLE (Fibbers)

FRIDAY
MARCH 13

LEICESTER: Steel Panther

ABERDEEN BLEED FROM WITHIN, DEATHWALK (Tunnels 2)
BIRMINGHAM THUNDER (NIA)
BIRMINGHAM THE QEMISTS, THE ALGORITHM (O2 Academy3 Birmingham)
BOURNEMOUTH FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND, GRADER, SVALBARD (Sound Circus)
BRIGHTON BLEACH BLOOD (Hope And Ruin)
BRISTOL YELLOWCARD, LESS THAN JAKE, CHUNK! NO, CAPTAIN CHUNK! (O2 Academy Bristol)
CARDIFF THE QUIREBOYS (Fuel)
CARDIFF HALESTORM, NOTHING MORE, WILSON (University Great Hall)
EBBW VALE JON GOMM (Ebbw Vale Institute)
EDINBURGH THE AFTERPARTY, BEYOND RECALL (Mash House)
EXETER FOZZY, THE DIRTY YOUTH (Lemon Grove)
GLASGOW WEDNESDAY 13 (Cathouse)
GLASGOW THE ANSWER (Garage)
LEICESTER STEEL PANTHER, SKINDRED, THE LOUNGE KITTENS (O2 Academy Leicester)
LONDON CORROSION OF CONFORMITY, HANG THE BASTARD (Electric Ballroom, Camden)
LONDON BLACK VEIL BRIDES, LIKE A STORM (Garage, Highbury)
LONDON ROYAL BLOOD, MINI MANSIONS (O2 Academy Brixton)
LONDON ROOM 94, SYMMETRY (O2 Academy Islington)
LONDON ALLUSONDRUGS (Old Blue Last, Shoreditch)
LONDON SWINGIN' UTTERS, TOY GUITAR (Pipeline)
MANCHESTER EUROPE, BLACK STAR RIDERS (Academy)
NEWCASTLE LONELY THE BRAVE (Cluny)
NOTTINGHAM ARCHITECTS, EVERY TIME I DIE, BLESSTHEFALL, COUNTERPARTS (Rock City)
SHEFFIELD PLACEBO, THE MIRROR TRAP (O2 Academy Sheffield)

SATURDAY
MARCH 14

BRIGHTON THE QEMISTS, THE ALGORITHM (Concorde 2)
EXETER FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND, GRADER, SVALBARD (Cavern)
GLASGOW PAPA ROACH, COLDRAIN, THE ONE HUNDRED (Barrowland)
GLASGOW THE AFTERPARTY, BEYOND RECALL (Classic Grand)
GLASGOW HIRAX (Ivory Blacks)
HALIFAX ALLUSONDRUGS (Decade Fest)
LEEDS YELLOWCARD, LESS THAN JAKE, CHUNK! NO, CAPTAIN CHUNK! (O2 Academy Leeds)
LONDON THUNDER (Eventim Apollo)
LONDON GUS G (O2 Academy Islington)
LONDON PHOENIX CALLING (Proud, Camden)
LONDON ARCHITECTS, EVERY TIME I DIE, BLESSTHEFALL, COUNTERPARTS (Roundhouse, Camden)
LONDON STEEL PANTHER, SKINDRED, THE LOUNGE KITTENS (SSE Arena, Wembley)
MANCHESTER HALESTORM, NOTHING MORE, WILSON (O2 Apollo Manchester)
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE THE ANSWER (Riverside)
NOTTINGHAM WEDNESDAY 13 (Rescue Rooms)
NOTTINGHAM ROYAL BLOOD, MINI MANSIONS (Rock City)
SOUTHAMPTON FOZZY, THE DIRTY YOUTH (1865)
WOLVERHAMPTON EUROPE, BLACK STAR RIDERS (Civic Hall)

SUNDAY
MARCH 15

BIRMINGHAM HIRAX (Asylum2)
BRIGHTON FOZZY, THE DIRTY YOUTH (Concorde 2)
BRISTOL WEDNESDAY 13 (Marble Factory)
CARDIFF JON GOMM (Moon)
EXETER EUROPE, BLACK STAR RIDERS (University)
LONDON BLACK VEIL BRIDES, LIKE A STORM (Electric Ballroom, Camden)
LONDON TERROR, KNUCKLEDUST, BROKEN TEETH (Underworld, Camden)
MANCHESTER PAPA ROACH, COLDRAIN, THE ONE HUNDRED (Academy)
MANCHESTER THE AFTERPARTY, BEYOND RECALL (Sound Control)
NORWICH THE QUIREBOYS (Brickmakers)
NORWICH PLACEBO, THE MIRROR TRAP (UEA)
ST ALBANS ALLUSONDRUGS (The Horn)
YORK LONELY THE BRAVE (Fibbers)

MONDAY
MARCH 16

BRISTOL JON GOMM (Colston Hall)
BRISTOL EUROPE, BLACK STAR RIDERS (O2 Academy Bristol)
BRISTOL ALLUSONDRUGS (Stag & Hounds)
GRIMSBY THE ANSWER (Yardbirds)
LEEDS LONELY THE BRAVE (Key Club)
LEICESTER PLACEBO, THE MIRROR TRAP (De Montfort Hall)
LIVERPOOL HANG THE BASTARD (The Shipping Forecast)
LONDON SLEEPMAKESWAVES, SKYHARBOR, TIDES FROM NEBULA (Underworld, Camden)
MANCHESTER HIRAX (Sound Control)

TUESDAY
MARCH 17

BIRMINGHAM PAPA ROACH, COLDRAIN, THE ONE HUNDRED (O2 Academy Birmingham)
BRIGHTON DORJE (Green Door Store)
CAMBRIDGE ALLUSONDRUGS (Portland Arms)
DUBLIN DROPKICK MURPHYS (Vicar Street)
LIVERPOOL THE ANSWER (Arts Club)
MANCHESTER HIRAX (Railway Inn)
MANCHESTER SLEEPMAKESWAVES, SKYHARBOR, TIDES FROM NEBULA (Roadhouse)
MILTON KEYNES HANG THE BASTARD (Craufurd Arms)
NORWICH WEDNESDAY 13 (Waterfront)
PLYMOUTH VADER, HATE (Hub)
SOUTHAMPTON JON GOMM (Joiners)
WOLVERHAMPTON LONELY THE BRAVE (Slade Rooms)

LOCAL HEROES
SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE UK'S UNSIGNED TALENT!

THIS WEEK!

THIRTEEN SHOTS

FROM: Birmingham.
WE ARE: Johnny (vocals), Lewis (guitar), George (bass), Tom (drums).
FAVOURITE BANDS: Misfits, Turbonegro.
WE SOUND LIKE...: "We have risen from the grave and awoken the dead with a sound that brings back the roots of 1960s rock'n'roll combined with garage blues and horror punk, with B-movie lyrics. If Misfits and Black Sabbath had an orgy with Turbonegro, it would sound a little bit like Thirteen Shots."
PEOPLE SHOULD CHECK US OUT 'CAUSE...: "With catchy riffs, thunderous drums and an explosive frontman that would make Casey Chaos look on impressed, why not give in to our sound we call B-Movie garage rock'n'roll!?"
CATCH US AT: The Travelling Morgue Horror Punk Festival Birmingham April 4.
MORE INFO AT: Thirteenshots.co.uk

ARE YOU AND YOUR BANDMATES LOCAL HEROES? IF SO, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! EMAIL YOUR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS ABOVE TO GIGS@KERRANG.COM, AND DON'T FORGET TO ATTACH A PHOTO OF YOUR BAND. SIMPLY PUT 'LOCAL HEROES' AND YOUR BAND NAME IN THE SUBJECT HEADER AND YOU COULD BE APPEARING IN THIS VERY SLOT VERY SOON...

For free inclusion, e-mail your gig/festival details to: Gigs@kerrang.com
Please include: 1. DATE 2. CITY 3. VENUE 4. BAND (+band genre) 5. SUPPORT BANDS or FESTIVAL INFO. No attachments!
Note: If any of these details are missing, listing will not be included.
Deadline is 15 days previous to Kerrang! issue dates.

GO SEE! YELLOWCARD / LESS THAN JAKE

SUPPORT: CHUNK! NO, CAPTAIN CHUNK!.
TOUR DATES: MANCHESTER ACADEMY MARCH 12, O2 ACADEMY BRISTOL 13, O2 ACADEMY LEEDS 14.

Look, we know Yellowcard don't look like they're particularly ready to party here. But we have it on very good authority that they're ready to bring it on this tour. And hard. Sadly, we can't guarantee the black jackets will be making an appearance. We *can*, however, guarantee that Less Than Jake and Chunk! No, Captain Chunk! will be there. And they're way better than jackets.

PHOTO: ANDREW TIMMS

JUST ANNOUNCED!

UP THE PUNX: Gnarwolves

...AND YOU WILL KNOW US BY THE TRAIL OF DEAD
Bristol Marble Factory May 28.

BENIGHTED
Croydon Scream Lounge April 11, Bristol Exchange 12, Liverpool Magnet 13, Edinburgh Bannermans 14, Leeds Temple Of Boom 15, Birmingham Flapper 16, Reading Face Bar 17. Support: Cancerous Womb, Abhorrent Decimation.

CREEPOID
Brighton Great Escape Festival May 15, Guildford Boileroom 17, London Hoxton Square Bar & Kitchen 18, Kingston Fighting Cocks 19, Liverpool Arts Club Loft 20. Support: Pity Sex (except Brighton and Kingston).

DARKO
Manchester Punk Festival @ Sound Control April 17, London More Of This Fest IV @ New Cross Inn 24, London Camden Black Heart June 26.

DUSTIN KENSRUE
Manchester RNCM Theatre May 2, Cardiff Glee Club 3, Glasgow Oran Mor 5, Birmingham Glee Club 6, London Union Chapel 7.

GNARWOLVES / THE SMITH STREET BAND
Bristol Fleece April 23, Southampton Joiners 24, London Tufnell Park Dome 25, Glasgow Audio 26, Manchester Gorilla 27, Leicester Soundhouse 28. Support: Drug Church.

HEAVEN'S BASEMENT
Cardiff Globe May 27, Tunbridge Wells Forum 28, Sheffield Corporation 29. Support: Glamour Of The Kill, Ashes.

KORN
Support added: Snot.

LA DISPUTE
Leeds Brudenell Social Club May 25, London Camden KOKO 26. Support: Two Inch Astronaut.

MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK
Support added: The Xcerts.

PILE
Brighton Green Door Store June 9, Canterbury Lady Luck 10, London Lexington 11, Nottingham JT Soar 13, Manchester Castle Hotel 14, Leeds Social Club 15, Newcastle Think Tank? 16, Glasgow Nice N Sleazy 17.

READING & LEEDS

LATEST ADDITION: Alexisonfire.

PRIMUS
London O2 Academy Brixton June 23, O2 Apollo Manchester 24, O2 Academy Birmingham 25.

SET IT OFF
London Camden Underworld May 6, Manchester Sound Control 7, Sheffield Corporation 8, Birmingham Asylum II 9. Support: Decade, Brawlers.

TELLISON
Birmingham Rainbow April 27, Glasgow Attic 28, Edinburgh Electric Circus 29, London Oslo 30, Guildford Boileroom May 1, Leicester Handmade Festival 2, Cheltenham 2000 Trees Festival July 10.

WE ARE THE OCEAN
DAtes added: Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms May 16, Cambridge Portland 17, Liverpool Arts Club 18, Nottingham Red Room 19, Plymouth Underground 20.

YOUTH MAN
Birmingham Sunflower Lounge April 15, London Stillery 21, Norwich Waterfront May 14, York Basement 15, Glasgow Stereo 16, Leicester Musician 20, Winchester Railway 21, Nottingham Rock City Basement 27, Bath Moles 28, Doncaster Leopard 29, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 30, Hull Fruit June 4, Wakefield Hop 5, Stoke Sugarmill 6, Guildford Boileroom 10, Exeter Cavern 11, Southampton Joiners 12, Brighton Sticky Mike's Frog Bar 13.

Tickets for all K! gigs are available from:
ALOUD.COM
buy your tickets from www.aloud.com

5 SECONDS OF SUMMER
Dublin O2 Arena May 28, Belfast Odyssey Arena 30, Glasgow SSE Hydro June 1, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 2, Leeds First Direct Arena 3, Birmingham NIA 5 – 6, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 7, Manchester Phones 4u Arena 9, Liverpool Echo Arena 10, London SSE Arena Wembley 12 – 14.

2000 TREES FESTIVAL
Line-Up: Deaf Havana, Kerbdog, Pulled Apart By Horses, Arcane Roots, Rob Lynch, Big Sixes, Allusondrugs, Nothing But Thieves, &U&I, Solemn Sun, Milk Teeth. Cheltenham Upcote Farm July 9 – 11.

AC/DC
Glasgow Hampden Park June 28, Dublin Aviva Stadium July 1, London Wembley Stadium 4.

ALL TIME LOW
London SSE Arena Wembley March 20. Support: Neck Deep, Real Friends.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL
London Camden Electric Ballroom May 13, Leeds Brudenell Social Club 15 (matinee show).

AMERICAN NIGHTMARE
London Camden Electric Ballroom April 29

ANATHEMA
London O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire April 16.

AND SO I WATCH YOU FROM AFAR
Glasgow King Tut's April 28, Manchester Gorilla 29, Bristol Marble Factory 30, London Islington Assembly Hall May 1.

ARCANE ROOTS
Belfast Sub April 22, Sheffield Corporation 24, Edinburgh Mash House 25, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 26, Colchester Colchester Arts Centre 28, Brighton Sticky Mike's Frog Bar 29, Cambridge Portland Arms 30, Birmingham Institute Temple May 1, Leeds Live At Leeds Festival 2, York Fibbers 3, Liverpool Arts Club 5, O2 Academy2 Oxford 7, Nottingham Bodega 8, Manchester Deaf Institute 9, Newcastle Think Tank? 10, Glasgow King Tut's 12, Chester Live Rooms 13, Bristol Exchange 14, Tunbridge Wells Forum 15, Norwich Waterfront Studio 17, Exeter Cavern 19, Reading Bowery District 20, Guildford Boileroom 21, London Oslo 22 – 23. Support: Black Peaks, Gallery Circus, Solemn Sun.

ARCHITECTS
O2 ABC Glasgow March 11, Birmingham Institute 12, Nottingham Rock City 13, London Camden Roundhouse 14. Support: Every Time I Die, blessthefall, Counterparts.

AS IT IS / THIS WILD LIFE
Kingston Fighting Cocks May 9, Southampton Joiners 10, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 11, Reading Bowery District 12, London Garage 13, Norwich Epic Studios 14, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 16, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 17, Glasgow King Tut's 18, Manchester Sound Control 19, O2 Academy2 Oxford 21, Yeovil Westlands 22. Support: Seaway, Boston Manor.

ATREYU
London Camden Underworld April 29.

BEARTOOTH
Reading Bowery District May 18, Bournemouth Anvil 19, Northampton Roadmenders 20, Carlisle Brickyard 21, Edinburgh Studio 24 22.
Support: The Color Morale, Dead Harts.

THE BLACKOUT
Birmingham Asylum March 23, London Camden KOKO 24, Manchester Academy III 25, Glasgow King Tut's 26, Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre 28.

BLACK VEIL BRIDES
London Highbury Garage March 13, London Camden Electric Ballroom 15.

BLOODSTOCK OPEN AIR
Line-up: Black Label Society, Napalm Death, Wolf, Trivium, Rob Zombie, Within Temptation, Opeth, Ihsahn, Cannibal Corpse, Sepultura, Death DTA, Dark Angel, Nuclear Assault, Orange Goblin, 1349, Armored Saint, Overkill, Ensiferum, Belphegor, Sabaton, Agalloch, Enslaved, Korpiklaani, Pro-pain, Delain, Fleshgod Apocalypse, Battalion, Mordred, Destrage, Godflesh, Conan, Bast, Planet Of Zeus, Dirty Sanchez's Pritchard vs Dainton, Ethereal, Lawnmower Deth, Oaf, Saille. Derbyshire Catton Park August 6 – 9.

BURY TOMORROW
Stoke Sugarmill April 9, Cheltenham 2 Pigs 10, Rugby Vault 11, Reading Sub89 16, Bath Nest 17, Bridgend Hobos 18, Exeter Phoenix 23, Bournemouth Sound Circus 24, Brighton Haunt 25. Support: Dead Harts (9 – 11), Polar (16 – 18), Creeper (23 – 25).

CARTEL
London O2 Academy Islington May 22.

CIRCA SURVIVE / RX BANDITS
Brighton Haunt May 18, Leeds Key Club 19, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 20, O2 ABC2 Glasgow 21, Nottingham Rock City Basement 22, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 23, Manchester Sound Control 25, Bristol Marble Factory 26, Southampton Engine Rooms 27, London Camden Electric Ballroom 28. Support: From Indian Lakes.

COMEBACK KID
London Highbury Garage May 22. Support: Bane.

CONVERGE
London ULU May 30. Support: Trap Them, Harms Way, Young And In The Way.

DAMNATION FESTIVAL
Line-up: At The Gates. Leeds University Union November 7.

DEAD KENNEDYS
Manchester Ritz June 21, O2 Academy Bristol 22, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 23, Glasgow King Tut's 25, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 26, London O2 Empire Shepherd's Bush 27.

DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE
London O2 Empire Shepherd's Bush June 8 – 10.

DECAPITATED
UK Techfest @ Newark Showground, Newark-on-Trent July 9 – 13.

DEVIL SOLD HIS SOUL
Brighton Green Door Store April 22, Milton Keynes Craufurd Arms 23, Manchester Sound Control 24, Leeds Key Club 30, Glasgow Classic Grand May 1, Wrexham Central Station 2, Norwich Epic Studios 3, London 100 Club 4. Support: Dead Harts, When We Were Wolves.

DEVIN TOWNSEND PROJECT
O2 Academy Bristol March 29, O2 ABC Glasgow 30, Manchester Academy 31, London Royal Albert Hall April 13. Support: Periphery, Shining.

DOWNLOAD
Line-up: Slipknot, Muse, Kiss, Judas Priest, Faith No More, Mötley Crüe, Five Finger Death Punch, A Day To Remember, Slash Featuring Myles Kennedy & The Conspirators, Black Stone Cherry, Marilyn Manson, Enter Shikari, Black Veil Brides, Lamb Of God, Billy Idol, Rise Against, Parkway Drive, Hollywood Undead, Clutch, Body Count, Eagles Of Death Metal, Godsmack, Mallory Knox, Motionless In White, Madball, Every Time I Die, DragonForce, Backyard Babies, Crown The Empire, Northlane, H.E.A.T, Andrew W.K., We Are Harlot, King 810, Ace Frehley, All That Remains, Bombus, Black Star Riders, Blood Youth, Chelsea Grin, Creeper, Defeater, Evil Scarecrow, Fearless Vampire Killers, Gnarwolves, Hands Like Houses, Hellyeah, In Flames, L7, Stray From The Path, Testament,

Thunder, Aaron Keylock, Allusondrugs, American Fangs, Apocalyptica, Beartooth, Blackberry Smoke, Butcher Babies, Cavalera Conspiracy, Code Orange, Counterparts, Crobot, Dead Daisies, Decade, Dolomite Minor, Emp!re, Fightstar, Ghost Town, God Damn, Heart Of A Coward, Hey Hello, Hyena, Iconic Eye, In Hearts Wake, Insomnium, Love Zombies, Modestep, New Years Day, The One Hundred, The Pink Slips, Pop Evil, Purson, ROAM, Rival State, September Mourning, Sirens In The Delta, The Sword, Sylosis, Trash Boat. Donington Park June 12 – 14.

FALL OUT BOY
Leeds First Direct Arena October 3, Aberdeen AECC GE Oil & Gas Arena 4, Birmingham Barclaycard Arena 6, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 7, Manchester Arena 9, Bournemouth International Centre 10, London SSE Arena Wembley 11 – 12.

FINCH
Glasgow Garage May 27, Newcastle University 28, O2 Academy2 Manchester 29, Norwich Waterfront 31, Brighton Concorde II 1 June, London Camden KOKO 2, Bristol Marble Factory 3.

FOO FIGHTERS
Sunderland Stadium Of Light May 25, Manchester Emirates Old Trafford 27, London Wembley Stadium June 19 – 20, Edinburgh BT Murrayfield Stadium 23. Support: Iggy Pop, Royal Blood (June dates only).

FOUR YEAR STRONG
Leeds Metropolitan University March 20, Glasgow Arches 21, Manchester Academy II 22, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 23, Cardiff Y Plas II 24, Norwich Waterfront 25, London Camden Electric Ballroom March 26, O2 Academy2 Birmingham 27, Brighton Concorde II 28, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 29. Support: Hit The Lights, Forever Came Calling, Light You Up.

FOZZY
London Camden Underworld March 11, Bristol Marble Factory 12, Exeter Lemon Grove 13, Southampton 1865 14, Brighton Concorde II 15. Support: The Dirty Youth.

FRNKIERO ANDTHE CELLABRATION
Manchester Deaf Institute April 16, Leeds Key Club 17, Glasgow King Tut's 19, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 20, Cardiff Clwb Ifor Bach 22, Brighton Haunt 23, O2 Academy Oxford 24, London Camden Underworld 28, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 29, London Camden Underworld May 10.

FUNERAL FOR A FRIEND
Falmouth Pavilions March 12, Bournemouth Sound Circus 13, Exeter Cavern 14, Kingston New Slang 19, Brighton Haunt 20, Hertfordshire Forum 21, Chester Live Rooms 26, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 27, Northampton Roadmender 28. Support: Grader and Svalbard (March 6 – 14), Vales and Employed To Serve (March 19 – 28).

GALLOWS
Glasgow Cathouse May 22, London Highbury Garage 26, Manchester Sound Control 27. Support: Baby Godzilla.

HALESTORM
O2 Guildhall Southampton March 12, Cardiff Uni Great Hall 13, O2 Apollo Manchester 14. Support: Nothing More, Wilson.

HEVY FESTIVAL
Line-up: The Dillinger Escape Plan, Monuments, Vales, Grader, Up River, OHHMS, Collisions, Baby Godzilla, Black Tusk, Coheed And Cambria, The Colour Line, Continents, Creeper, Fathoms, Fort Hope, The Get Up Kids, Hacktivist, Touche Amore, Wraiths. . Port Lympne Wild Animal Park August 14 – 15.

HIT THE DECK
Line-up: Skindred, While She Sleeps, Cancer Bats, frnkiero and the cellabration, A Great Big Pile Of Leaves, Allusondrugs, Ashes, As It Is, Beasts, City Of Ships, Dead!, Dead Hearts, Decade, Devil Sold His Soul, The Early November, Idiom, Junius, Rolo Tomassi, The Swellers, Thomas Nicholas Band, Tim Vantol, When We Were Wolves, You Blew It!, ZOAX. Bristol April 25, Nottingham 26.

IMPERICON FESTIVAL
Line-up: Deez Nuts, Adept, The Ghost Inside, Whitechapel, Suicide Silence, Stick To Your Guns, Carnifex, Being As An Ocean, Ingested, Desolated Inc. Manchester Academy May 4.

INCUBUS
London Eventim Apollo June 16.

ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL
Line-up: The Prodigy, You Me At Six, Billy Idol. Newport Seaclose Park June 11 – 14.

KARNIVOOL
O2 ABC Glasgow 23 March, 2015, Manchester Ritz 24, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 25, O2 Academy Bristol 26, Southampton 1865 27, London Camden Roundhouse 28.

KORN
O2 Apollo Manchester July 15, London O2 Academy Brixton 16.

LAGWAGON
London O2 Academy Islington March 23, Bristol Bierkeller 24, Manchester Academy 25, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 26. Support: The Flatliners, Western Addiction.

LONELY THE BRAVE
Glasgow King Tut's Wah Wah Hut

PVRIS heard The Addams Family were casting extras

March 12, Newcastle Upon Tyne Cluny 13, York Fibbers 15, Leeds Key Club 16, Wolverhampton Slade Rooms 17, London ULU 19, Tunbridge Wells Forum 20, Brighton Sticky Mike's 21, Portsmouth Wedgewood Rooms 23, Bristol Exchange 24.

MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK
O2 Academy2 Birmingham May 3, London Camden KOKO 4.

THE MOVIELIFE
London Camden Electric Ballroom June 18, O2 Academy 2 Birmingham 19, Manchester Academy II 20.

NASS FESTIVAL
Line-up: Enter Shikari. Bath & West Showground. July 10 – 12.

NEGATIVE PLANE / CRAVEN IDOL / WITCHSORROW
London Black Heart July 16.

NICKELBACK
Sheffield Motorpoint Arena November 13, Glasgow SSE Hydro 14, Newcastle Metro Radio Arena 16, Manchester Arena 17, Liverpool Echo Arena 19, Birmingham Genting Arena 21, Nottingham Capital FM Arena 22, London SSE Arena Wembley 24. Support: Monster Truck.

NIGHTWISH
London SSE Arena Wembley December 19. Support: Arch Enemy, Amorphis.

NOFX / ALKALINE TRIO
O2 Academy Birmingham June 27, O2 Academy Newcastle 30, O2 Academy Leeds July 3, London O2 Academy Brixton 4 – 5.

OF MICE & MEN
O2 Guildhall Southampton March 26, O2 Academy Bristol 27, London O2 Academy Brixton 28, Glasgow Barrowland 30, O2 Academy Newcastle 31, Nottingham Rock City April 2, O2 Academy Birmingham 3, Manchester Academy 4. Support: The Amity Affliction, Volumes.

OPETH
London Palladium October 18.

PAPA ROACH
O2 Guildhall Southampton March 11, London Camden Roundhouse 12, Glasgow Barrowland 14, Manchester Academy 15, O2 Academy Birmingham 17, Nottingham Rock City 18. Support: Coldrain, The One Hundred.

PLACEBO
O2 Apollo Manchester March 12, O2 Academy Sheffield 13, Norwich UEA 15, Leicester De Montfort Hall 16, O2 Academy Birmingham 18, Bristol Colston Hall 19, O2 Academy Bournemouth 21, Southend Cliffs Pavilion 22, London Eventim Apollo 24 – 25.

THE PRODIGY
O2 Academy Newcastle May 4, Bridlington Spa 5, O2 Academy Birmingham 7, Cardiff Motorpoint Arena 8, Blackpool Empress Ballroom 9, Reading Rivermead 11, Brighton Centre 12, Bournemouth International Centre 14, London Alexandra Palace 15 – 16.

PVRIS
London Camden Barfly April 16, O2 Academy3 Birmingham 18. Support: Light You Up, Twin Wild.

READING & LEEDS
Line-up: Metallica, Pierce The Veil, Refused, Limp Bizkit, Manchester Orchestra, Royal Blood, All Time Low, American Football, Bring Me The Horizon, Mastodon, Neck Deep, Panic! At The Disco, Slaves, We Are The Ocean, Marmozets, Cancer Bats, frnkiero andthe cellabration, Ghost B.C., Gojira, Modern Life Is War, The Menzingers, While She Sleeps, Frank Turner, Darlia, Lonely The Brave, Radkey, Ash, Simple Plan, New Found Glory, Bury Tomorrow. Reading Richfield Avenue and Leeds Bramham Park August 28 – 30.

REAL FRIENDS
Manchester Sound Control March 19, Birmingham Asylum 21, London Camden Underworld 22. Support: Brawlers, Trash Boat.

RIVAL SONS
O2 Academy Leeds March 28, O2 Academy Liverpool 29, O2 Academy Glasgow 30, London Camden Roundhouse April 1, Nottingham Rock City 3, O2 Guildhall Southampton 4.

ROYAL BLOOD
Wolverhampton Civic Hall March 11, London O2 Academy Brixton 13, Nottingham Rock City 14.

SLAM DUNK
Line-up: You Me At Six, Taking Back Sunday, Lower Than Atlantis, The Wonder Years, Neck Deep, Bayside, Knuckle Puck, Fireworks, Reel Big Fish, Millencolin, Goldfinger, Crossfaith, Gallows, H20, Comeback Kid, Bane, Don Broco, PVRIS, While She Sleeps, Beartooth, The Color Morale, The Bronx, Mariachi El Bronx, Trash Talk, Zebrahead, Patent Pending, Lightyear, Big D & The Kids Table, Transit, Such Gold, A Loss For Words, Emmure, Thy Art Is Murder. Leeds City Centre May 23, Hertfordshire Forum 24, Wolverhampton City Centre 25.

SLEEPING WITH SIRENS / PIERCE THE VEIL
Norwich UEA March 29, Portsmouth Guildhall 30, O2 Academy Bristol 31, Manchester Academy April 2, O2 Academy Leeds 3, O2 Academy Newcastle 6, Nottingham Rock City 7, O2 Academy Birmingham 8, London Kentish Town Forum 10 – 11. Support: Issues.

STEEL PANTHER
Wolverhampton Civic Hall March 12, Leicester O2 Academy 13, London SSE Arena Wembley 14. Support: Skindred, The Lounge Kittens.

THE SWELLERS
Birmingham Rainbow April 21, Manchester Sound Control 22, Glasgow Audio 23, Leeds Key Club 24, London Tufnell Park Dome 27, Brighton Hope 28.

SYSTEM OF A DOWN
London SSE Arena Wembley April 10.

TERROR
London Camden Underworld March 15. Support: Knuckledust, Broken Teeth.

THEORY OF A DEADMAN
Bristol Bierkeller April 23, Sheffield Leadmill 24, O2 ABC Glasgow 26, Manchester Academy II 27, Birmingham Library @ Institute 28, London King's Cross Scala 30.

TITLE FIGHT
Bristol Thekla May 2, Leeds Outbreak Festival 3, Glasgow Classic Grand 4, London Tufnell Park Dome 6.

TRASH TALK / BEING AS AN OCEAN
Glasgow Cathouse May 5, London ULU 6. Support: Deez Nuts, Stick To Your Guns.

TURBOWOLF
Oxford Bullingdon Arms April 8, Swansea Sin City 9, Nottingham Bodega 10, Coventry Kasbah 11, Leeds Key Club 12, O2 Academy2 Liverpool 14, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 15, Sheffield Harley 16, Tunbridge Wells Forum 17, Southampton Talking Heads 18, Cambridge Portland Arms 20, Bristol Marble Factory 22. Support: Dolomite Minor.

TWIN ATLANTIC
Manchester Albert Hall May 5, London O2 Academy Brixton 7, O2 Academy Birmingham 8, Glasgow SSE Hydro 9.

WE ARE THE OCEAN
London Electric Ballroom April 8.

WEDNESDAY 13
Manchester Club Academy 11, Newcastle Think Tank? 12, Glasgow Cathouse 13, Nottingham Rescue Rooms 14, Bristol Marble Factory 15, Norwich Waterfront 17, Cardiff Globe 18.

WHILE SHE SLEEPS / CANCER BATS
Birmingham Institute April 22, Manchester Ritz 23, Norwich UEA 24, Newcastle University 28, O2 ABC Glasgow 29, London Kentish Town Forum 30. Support: Hundredth, Oathbreaker.

WILL HAVEN
Manchester Sound Control May 24, York Duchess 25, O2 ABC2 Glasgow 26, O2 Academy2 Newcastle 27, Nottingham Rock City Basement 28, Bristol Temples Festival 29. Support: Raging Speedhorn, Palm Reader.

THE XCERTS
Guildford Boileroom April 10, Tunbridge Wells Forum 11, York Duchess 13, Hull Fruit 14, Aberdeen Lemon Tree 15, Inverness Ironworks 16, Edinburgh Mash House 17, Birmingham Rainbow 19, London Borderline 20, Cambridge Portland 21, Northampton Roadmender 22, Exeter Cavern 23.

YELLOWCARD / LESS THAN JAKE
Manchester Academy March 12, O2 Academy Bristol 13, O2 Academy Leeds 14. Support: Chunk! No, Captain Chunk!.

MY FIRST GIG

RAMONES, SYRIA MOSQUE BALLROOM, PITTSBURGH, 1987

JUSTIN SANE, ANTI-FLAG

"I WENT with my cousin, and we were both 14. I'd been to local underground basement-type shows before, but they were certainly the first kind of 'big' band I'd seen, and it was my first meaningful slam-dancing-come-mosh-pit experience.

"Jane's Addiction opened and they were not exactly welcome! In fact, they got booed off the stage! It was a real punk-rock crowd, and they just didn't go over at all, and probably found it harder in Pittsburgh than anywhere else because it's such a meat-and-potatoes, blue-collar town, and they did not want to hear that weird Californian shit! People were literally throwing stuff at them!

"Then the Ramones came out and blistered through their set. What really stands out in my memory is not so much a particular song, but how often Joey Ramone would say, 'Take it, Dee Dee, 1-2-3-4!' That blew me away. It was just so cool. The other thing I loved was that Joey was wearing cut-off gloves! I remember thinking, 'That's a fucking cool look. I should think about doing something

"I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND HOW SPECIAL IT WAS"

like that!' When we left I was really sweaty and it was a freezing-cold night, but I just didn't care. I was so far beyond that by that point. But I also remember being really glad that I didn't get hurt!

"I'd been really looking forward to that show, they were one of my favourite bands – and they are to this day – and I was totally stoked on it, but when I look back on it now, I think I didn't really understand just how special it was. When you consider the legendary status they have today, and the place they have in the echelons of rock'n'roll history, I think if I'd grasped that, I'd have been even more excited about it. They meant so much to me and my friends, but I don't think we appreciated how much we owed them in terms of the movement they started and the generations they inspired."

COMING SOON: Tool, The Levellers, New Found Glory

WORDS: DAN SLESSOR

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NEXT WEEK

ON SALE MARCH 18

ALL TIME LOW

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KERRANG! A: PO Box 2930, London, W1A 6DZ T: 020 7295 5000 E: Feedback@kerrang.com W: Kerrang.com

STAFF
Editor: **James McMahon**
Deputy Editor: **George Garner**
Art Editor: **Steve Beech**
Deputy Art Editor: **Laura Reid**
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CONTRIBUTORS
Matt Allen, Steve Beebee, Jessica Bridgeman, Mike Diver, Tomas Doyle, Hannah Ewens, James Hickie, Sam Law, Alistair Lawrence, James MacKinnon, Hugh Platt, Amit Sharma, Tom Shepherd, Dan Slessor, Mark Sutherland, Olly Thomas, Paul Travers, Ian Winwood, Rod Yates, Ray Zell.

PHOTOGRAPHERS
David Bergman, Chris Casey, Ian Collins, Carrie Davenport, Jeremy Harris, Paul Harries, Lisa Johnson, Andrew Lipovsky, Ashley Maile, Martin Philbey, Andrew Timms, Neil Visel, Dave Willis.

MARKETING
Head Of Marketing: **Simon Doggett**
Marketing Manager: **Harriet Hines**
Marketing Executive: **Alex Penge**
Group Direct Marketing Manager: **Geraldine Wilson**

SYNDICATION
International Content Executive: **Ryan Chambers** (01733 468561 Ryan.chambers@bauermedia.co.uk)
IFA (+31 20 664 5324 Info@ifa-amsterdam.com)

EVENTS
Event Director: **Helen Scott**
Senior Event Producer: **Marguerite Peck**
Senior Event Producer: **Ruth Kosla**
Account Manager: **Sianne Young**

ADVERTISING
Telephone: 020 7295 5474
Group MD Advertising: **Richard Dunmall**
Head of Creative & Brand Solutions: **Clare Chamberlain**
Head of Marketplace: **Simon Kilby**
Head of Brands: **Remy Kirk**
Group Brand Director: **Rachel McClenahan**
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PRODUCTION
Kerrang! Production Manager: **Andrea Cook**
Ad Production Manager: **Jackie Doran**
Group Ad Production Manager: **Zoe Bellamy**
Distribution: **Frontline** (01733 555161)
Repro: **Rival Colour**
Printing: **Polestar**

SUITS
Chief Executive: **Paul Keenan**
Personal Assistant to Paul Keenan: **Emma Knowles**
Publishing Director: **Liz Martin**
Associate Publisher: **Phil Alexander**
MD Lifestyle and Advertising: **Abby Carvosso**
Personal Assistant to Abby Carvosso: **Alison Meadley** (020 7295 5502)
Business Analyst: **Natalie Talbot**

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recycle

THE ALL-NEW ULTIMATE ROCKSTAR TEST

THIS WEEK: JIMMY PAGE, LED ZEPPELIN

The Led Zeppelin guitarist's antics are legendary. But will our rockstar ranking make him Rock And Roll, or leave him Dazed And Confused? Game on!

ON ROCK'N'ROLL...

WHAT'S THE ODDEST THING YOU'VE EVER BEEN IN TROUBLE FOR?
"When we played Earl's Court in 1975, we had a laser. The Greater London Council, they came down and said, 'No, you can't use this, it's gonna cut holes in the roof! It'll cut people in half!' Honestly, it was like a fucking laser pen. The only laser thing cutting through people was gonna be my laser notes!"

WHAT'S THE STRANGEST GIFT YOU'VE RECEIVED FROM A FAN?
"I've had a number of gifts from fans, but never thought any of them were that *strange*. But I want to be careful with this answer, to make sure I don't encourage anyone to start giving me weird things!"

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR MOST EXTRAVAGANT PURCHASE?
"Probably my Les Paul Custom guitar, because I really had to stretch to get it. This must have been way, way back before I went to art college. And it was a super-expensive guitar! But it was essential to my character of playing. When I was doing session work [in the '60s], that was the main guitar I used. I stretched to get it, but I knew in my belly that it would serve me well."
NOT THE PLUSH HOUSE BELONGING TO INFAMOUS BLACK MAGICIAN ALEISTER CROWLEY, THEN?

ON YOUR OWN MUSIC...

FINISH THE LYRIC: '*AND MY EYES FILL WITH SAND...*'
"Er, '*I'll take a leaf out of rain land*'?"
NOPE, IT'S '*AS I SCAN THIS WASTED LAND*' FROM KASHMIR. ONLY ONE OF THE BEST SONGS EVER...

EACH MEMBER OF LED ZEPPELIN HAD A SYMBOL FOR YOUR FOURTH ALBUM IN 1972. BUT WHAT WAS THE SYMBOL FOR FAIRPORT CONVENTION SINGER SANDY DENNY, WHO PROVIDED GUEST VOCALS ON THE BATTLE OF EVERMORE?
"Sandy Denny's symbol... No, I don't remember it. Actually wait, is it the three touching triangles that kinda looks a bit like the radioactive sign? Yeah, that's it!"
RADIOACTIVE NOTES NOW? CRIKEY

HOW MANY CHILDREN WERE THERE ON THE COVER OF YOUR HOUSES OF THE HOLY ALBUM?

ON THE HYPOTHETICAL...

YOU AUCTION OFF A GUITAR FOR CHARITY, BUT THEY ACCIDENTALLY TAKE YOUR FAVOURITE LES PAUL. DO YOU ASK FOR IT BACK?
"Rule number one: nothing happens to my number one Les Paul. The original 1959 model I bought in 1969 [from Joe Walsh, The Eagles] still gets played, actually. I used it for the O2 Arena gig in 2007. We go back a long way, so I'm pretty loyal to that guitar. I don't want to put it in situations where it could be in dangerous waters. And I don't even want to think about what it's worth!"

"THE COUNCIL WERE WORRIED WE'D CUT PEOPLE IN HALF!"

DAVE GROHL PLAYS YOU THE DEMOS FOR HIS NEW REGGAE SUPERGROUP. YOU DON'T THINK THEY SOUND THAT GREAT AT ALL, BUT DAVE IS VERY NICE. DO YOU TELL HIM THE TRUTH?
"I'd need someone to wake me up first!"

"This is like Mastermind! The answer is two, because there was one boy and one girl on the day. But they made a montage out of them. I don't know how many in total."
WELL, THAT'S US TOLD, ISN'T IT?

YOU MET BARACK OBAMA IN 2012. HE CALLS YOU OUT OF THE BLUE ASKING FOR HELP WITH THE WHITE HOUSE PIPES, THINKING YOU'RE HIS PLUMBER. DO YOU CORRECT HIM, OR GIVE IT A GO?
"Well, what can I say... I'm a man of many talents, but I really don't think I could fix the White House plumbing."
THAT'S OKAY. BARACK PROBABLY COULDN'T CHANGE GUITAR STRINGS...

SPIRITUAL HEADMELTER...

IF THERE WAS A STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN HERE ON EARTH, WHERE WOULD ONE FIND IT?
"I'd say it can be found it on the companion disc to the reissue of our fourth album [*1971's Led Zeppelin IV, from which Stairway To Heaven comes – Zep Ed*]. Does that count?"
ERR, GO ON THEN. BUT ONLY 'CAUSE IT'S YOU!

JIMMY SCORED 90%

Mr Page is not known for being particularly forthcoming about the excess of Zep. Which is how he forgot to mention having a private Boeing 747 and the house where Crowley attempted a six-month magic ritual. Still, he's Jimmy fucking Page, isn't he?

THE LEADERBOARD!

WHO TO BEAT IN 2015!

LEMMY, MOTÖRHEAD — 99%

ICE-T, BODY COUNT — 97%

ALICE COOPER — 95%

ALEX GASKARTH, ALL TIME LOW — 55%

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